Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the Saipan legislative delegation adequately consulted the public on the casino issue?

Let your voice be heard!
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INSIDE

Gift of Touch

Massage therapist Angie Posada knows that rapport with a client is as essential as one's massaging skill.

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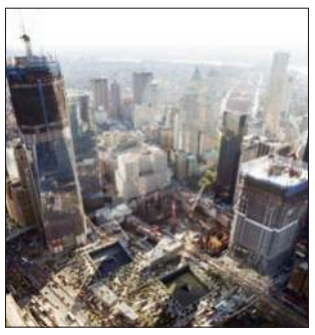

Ground Zero

Finally, World Trade Center rises from ground zero, 10 years after the 9/11 attacks.

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Director Madonna

Madonna says she identifies with Wallis Simpson, for whom King Edward VIII abdicated his throne.

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Child tax credit checks could miss public schools' opening

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Parents waiting for their children's tax credit checks in time for the opening of public school opening on Tuesday got a bit of sad news yesterday as the Fitial administration said the checks could come in later.

"I am disappointed that the check is not in the mail yet. I'm expecting a check of some $1,500," said a 44-year-old father of two from Navy Hill.

Like many parents, he has been relying on the child tax credit to buy school supplies for his two children—one enrolled in a public school and one enrolled in a private school that opened in August.

Another father of two, from Dandan, said this would only be his family's second time to receive a child tax credit check he estimates to be $800 for one of his two children.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that some $4.5 million in child tax credit checks could be out in a few weeks.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-

See CHILD TAX on Page 4

ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos is flanked by Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez and Substance Abuse Prevention And Recovery Coalition chair Clyde Norita during a proclamation signing yesterday on Capital Hill. Inos endorsed September 2011 as National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the Commonwealth, with the theme "Join the voices for recovery: now more than ever." Also in photo are coalition members and advocates of partner agencies.

August's vehicle sales dip 49 pct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

New vehicle sales dropped 49 percent in August, a month after posting a 52-percent plunge.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, in its latest sales report released yesterday, said that only 28 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles were sold in August, compared to 55 during the same month last year.

Between January and August, new vehicle sales also decreased by 31 percent, from 413 during the first eight

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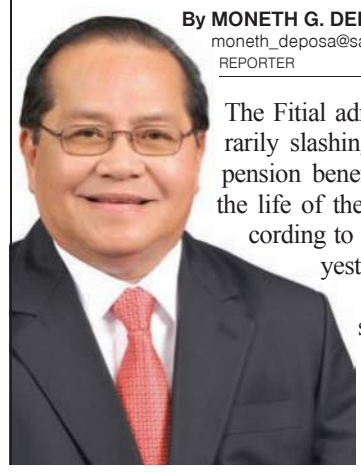
Admin backs slashing pension benefits

» Inos: Trying to get more money from general fund just not practical



By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration supports temporarily slashing the benefits being paid to pension beneficiaries in order to prolong the life of the NMI Retirement Fund, according to acting governor Eloy S. Inos yesterday.

At the same time, Inos described as impractical the Fund's desire to get more than the $10 million the government wants to allocate the Fund in fiscal year 2012, which starts on Oct. 1. The administration's spending plan for the new fiscal year allots a budget of just $10 million for its employer share.

According to Inos, appropriating more than $10 million for the Fund will result in even more severe cuts elsewhere in government operations. He likened the situation to weighing the "current essential services that need to be provided versus benefits to be paid [to pension members] in the future."

Inos expressed hope that other ways can be identified to solve the pension plan's problems. Declining government resources, he said, is the

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HANMI: Pass $15 travel promotion fee to grow CNMI tourism. PAGE 2
EPA urges CUC to hire more staff for water systems ASAP. PAGE 3

Local

HANMI TO LAWMAKERS

Pass $15 travel promotion fee to grow CNMI tourism

» But make sure money goes directly to MVA, not general fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is asking the Senate and the House to pass a bill that seeks to charge passengers from non-U.S. destinations a new $15 "travel promotion fee," but asks that fees collected should go directly to the Marianas Visitors Authority instead of the general fund to help grow the tourism industry.

HANMI represents hundreds of hotel rooms in the CNMI.

"We support the implementation of a $15 per person travel promotion fee on arrivals from non-U.S. destinations to fund the Tourism Incentive Program. We do not feel this additional fee will negatively affect the average visitor's decision to choose the Northern Marianas destination," HANMI board chair Nick Nishikawa and five other HANMI directors said in a letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

House Bill 17-179, House Substitute 1 passed the House in May, and has since been with the Senate.

The bill seeks to amend a law signed in February, to expand the target market for the tourism incentive program to include "Asian countries" in addition to Japan, which was struck by disasters in March or a month after the original law was enacted.

But Nishikawa and the other board members said it is imperative that the funds collected for this bill's purpose be given "directly" to MVA for the purpose of the Tourism Incentive Program.

"We do not support this revenue being collected under the general fund, as there is concern it would be diverted for other than the intended purpose, which is solely for the growth of our tourism industry. Furthermore, allocating this revenue directly to MVA will eliminate any delays in allotments, a challenge the tourism authority continues to face in implementing its programs," the HANMI officials said.

Tourism is now the only major industry in the CNMI, after the total pullout of the garment industry. But tourist arrivals have been steadily declining. In June, for example, arrivals dropped by 17 percent compared to June 2010, attributed mainly to the negative effects of the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis in Japan.

MVA said there were only 23,604 visitors in June compared to 28,372 during the same month last year. Overall, visitor arrivals are down 5 percent this fiscal year to 251,992 visitors.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-179, HS1, said yesterday he's hopeful that the Senate will pass the tourism incentive bill.

"I am sure the Senate understands the CNMI's need for revenue and will pass the legislation. I just hope they can do it soon and not delay the process. MVA is waiting on that bill so that they can quickly promulgate the rules to get the program started," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

But a copy of the Senate's scheduled Sept. 8 session agenda does not include the tourism incentive bill. The bill calendar has only the fiscal year 2012 budget.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chair of the Senate Committee on Resources and Economic Development, said in a separate interview yesterday that the panel will meet on Wednesday or Thursday to discuss this legislation.

"And from there, we'll know whether to recommend passage or not of the bill," he added.

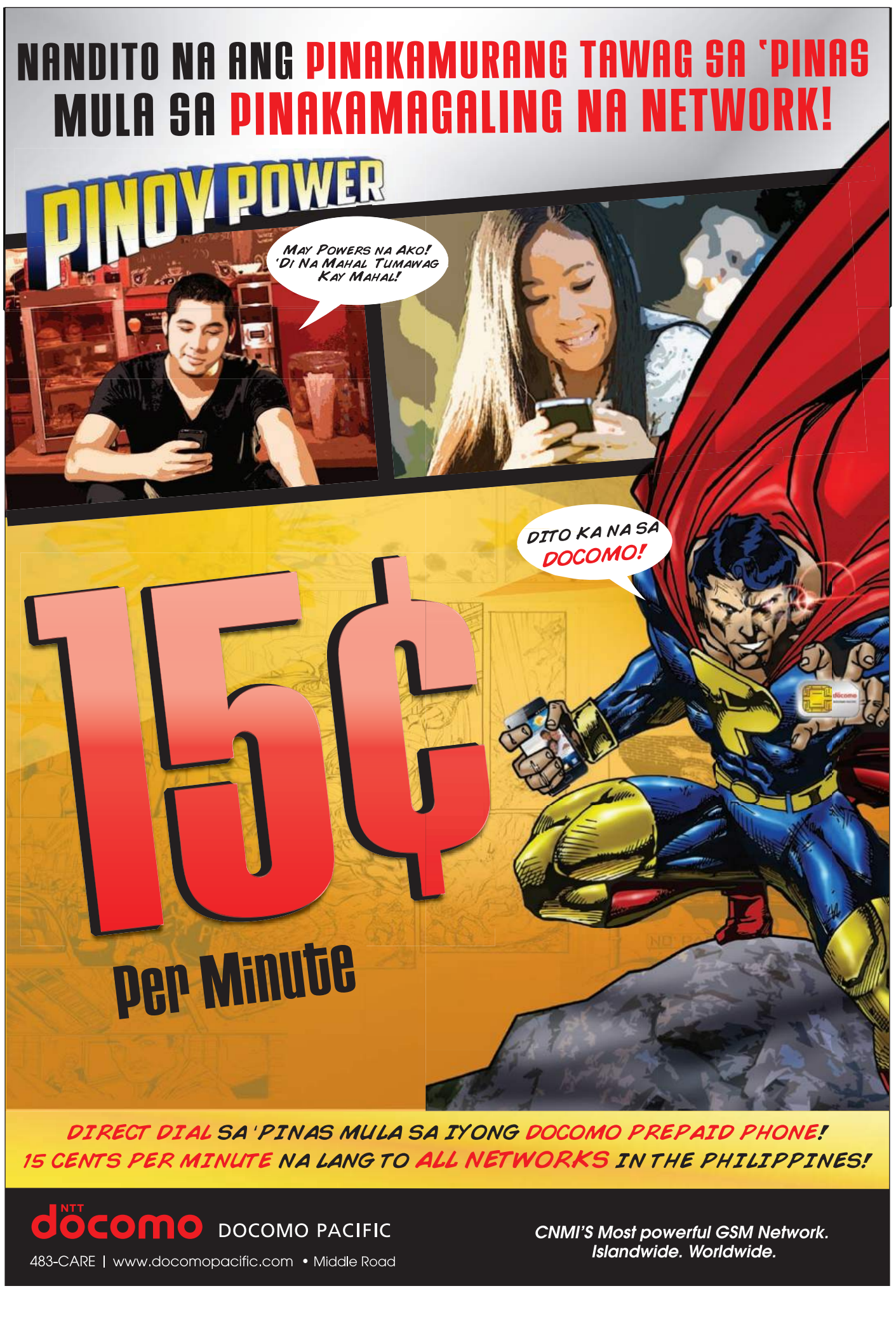
The Fitial administration sponsored the original tourism incentive bill that became law.

When a bill amending the tourism law was introduced, it contained the new $15 fee to be collected by airlines, besides expanding the target market for the tour agent incentive program.

The law gives monetary incentives to travel agents who are able to bring in tourists from the Japanese cities of Osaka and Nagoya during so-called low peak periods. The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan has prompted the CNMI to expand the target market, to include those from Korea and China and other Asian countries.

Collections from this new fee will also be used to "recover costs incurred for enforcement of customs and quarantine laws," the bill amending the law says.

Lawmakers have always talked about passing revenue-generating bills and cut spending, but only a few actually get acted on.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EPA urges CUC to hire more staff for water systems ASAP

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has urged the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to press ahead as quickly as possible with the hiring of more staff for its water systems.

In its response, CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher assured that the utilities agency is working diligently to ensure water quality and to develop and train its operators.

"CUC is committed to correct these deficiencies and to eventually provide 24-hour delivery of clean safe drinking water," Fisher said.

EPA legal counsel Bradley O'Brien, in a report filed in District Court, said they are concerned that positions are not being filled as quickly as possible so that adequate, qualified personnel are available to operate the water systems on an ongoing basis.

O'Brien said that CUC continues to work toward satisfying specified conditions, including filling necessary operator positions for each of the three water systems.

On Saipan, CUC's water operation is shorthanded, he said, resulting in a coliform violation in March 2011.

In addition, O'Brien said, as reported in its July 28, 2011, quarterly report, CUC has been unable to place a Direct Responsible Charge operator on Rota since February 2011 and continues to backfill that position from its understaffed Saipan operations.

"Filling this position is especially needed as CUC recently experienced system disruptions on Rota when its water reservoir drained out and its main water lines were damaged," O'Brien said.

In its reply, Fisher said that CUC added 10 certified operators since December 2010, bringing the total number to 25.

"We believe our in-house training program has been instrumental in this effort, and we continue to offer both operational and certification level training to our employees," she said.

As for filling operator positions on Rota, Fisher said that CUC is having a hard time hiring one additional DRC operator. She pointed out, though, that CUC has a lower level certified worker in place on Rota.

CUC previously hired four DRC positions last quarter; the DRC for Rota resigned in February after a brief stay. Fisher said the remaining three are still aboard. She said they are currently backfilling the Rota post with a Level 3 certified operator from Saipan.

CUC did try to hire internally for this position, Fisher said, but has been unsuccessful.

"We continue to advertise the positions and believe Rota's depressed economy, remote location, high cost of living, and lack of medical facilities are contributing factors in this recruitment," Fisher said.

She confirmed that Rota did experience a supply problem due to a ruptured water main but said that, once reported and the leak was identified, CUC crews boosted supply by operating Rota's three wells to quickly fill the drained reservoir.

She said that CUC shares EPA's concerns with the pace of hiring; however, they disagree with EPA's statements that blame the personnel loads with water quality violations.

Fisher said the total coliform violations were on Saipan and were due to elevated turbidity levels. While not a health emergency, Fisher said, it is a concern and public notice was properly issued.

She said CUC continues to monitor its Saipan water systems daily and attributes any water quality issues to the lack of 24-hour pressurization, poor equipment, early warning devices on pumps, motors, and water quality instrumentation.

DPS launches drive vs aggressive drivers

Department of Public Safety acting commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro said police would be conducting the Aggressive Driver Interdiction Program or ADIP.

The purpose pf this program is to deter and detect aggressive drivers.

"We must be vigilant in monitoring the streets in our community for other law-abiding citizens. We must keep out streets and highways safe for all motorist and pedestrians," said Ogumoro.

Drivers who exhibit aggressive driving traits endanger the community, he said.

ADIP, which Ogumoro said will take effect immediately, is geared toward helping keep the roads safe from drivers who exhibits signs of aggressive driving or street racing.

All department units, including Patrol, Traffic, Boat Safety Unit, Criminal Investigation Bureau, and the Motor Carrier Safety Unit will participate in this joint operation.

Ogumoro advised the public to "please drive safely and observe all traffic laws." ***(PR)***

Free health screenings, referrals for women at the Sabalu Market

Stop by the Sabalu Market in Susupe today, Sept. 3, from 6am to 11am and learn more about breast and cervical health and wellness.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's trained outreach volunteers are teaming up with the Department of Public Health to provide free health services for women that include blood pressure checks, body mass index calculations, blood sugar checks (for the first 100 women), HIV screening, clinical breast exams (in the DPH mobile clinic), enrollment/referrals for mammograms for women ages 40 and above through the Breast & Cervical Screening Program, information about healthy nutrition, physical activity, and body weight guidelines, and ways to improve quality of life and reduce cancer risk.

Women who sign up for mammograms (if ages 40 above) or clinical breast exams (if ages 21 above) will also receive gift certificates for fresh fruits and vegetables from the Sabalu Market.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Solid Waste accepting e-waste from residential customers

Effective Monday, Aug. 29, the Solid Waste Management Division began accepting electronic wastes or e-wastes from residential customers. At this time, no e-wastes will be accepted from commercial or government haulers.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works division said the establishment of the disposal rates by Oct. 1 will affect all waste haulers, among them residential, commercial and government.

Also, the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi landfill will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.

Below are the regular hours of the Lower Base Transfer Station and Marpi landfill:

TRANSFER STATION

■ Government payday week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday is open 8:30am-12pm and 1-4pm. Wednesday is close all day. Lunch close 12pm-1pm.

■ Non-government payday week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday is open 8:30am-12-pm, and 1pm-4pm. Wednesday is close all day. Saturday is open 7:30am-12pm, and 1-4pm. Lunch close 12pm-1pm.

MARPI LANDFILL

■ Government payday week: Monday to Saturday open 8:30am-12pm, and 1pm-4pm. Lunch close 12-1pm.

■ Non-government payday week: Monday to Friday open 8:30am-12pm, and 1-4pm. Saturday open 7:30am-12pm, and 1-4pm. Lunch close 12-1pm. ***(PR)***

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Tel. (670) 323-5100 • Fax (670) 323-5111
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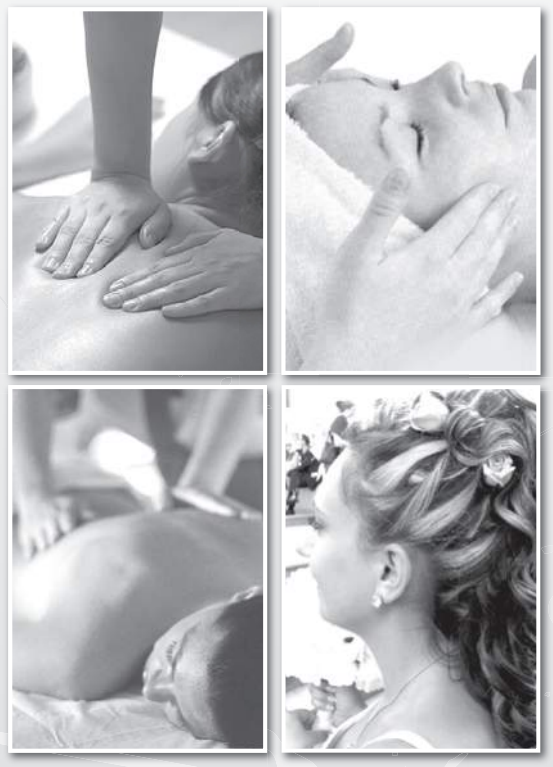
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Private ambulance firm welcomes regulation of industry

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The first and so far only private ambulance company in the CNMI is supporting regulation of the industry, as proposed in Sen. Jovita Taimanao's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-76 or the Commonwealth Emergency Medical Services Commission Act of 2011.

At present, the CNMI does not have any law regulating private ambulance companies, as well as the local Emergency Medical Service for that matter.

Joseph C. Santos, owner and president of Saint Michael's Medical Response, said passing the bill will provide a uniform set of standards that will guarantee that both private and public ambulance services are fully compliant with government and industry standards, especially in terms of scope of practice required of any ambulance service system.

"With strict compliance with both standards, the CNMI community is ensured the best ambulance service system, as is common throughout the United States. Additionally, the creation of an EMS Commission will elevate the structure of the CNMI-wide EMS system similar to that of a large majority of communities and metropolitan areas in the mainland United States," Santos said in a letter to Sen. Ralph Torres, chair of the Senate Health Committee.

Torres

Torres' committee is now reviewing SB 17-76.

The bill seeks to create a CNMI Emergency Medical Services Commission composed of five members appointed by the governor.

Santos said that, while it may seem surprising and perhaps odd to many, as the owner and operator of the only private ambulance in the CNMI, he welcomes such regulation.

"However, I can only support regulation in the form of a commission, on the strengths of its non-biased nature and impartiality," Santos added.

He said regulations protect the legitimacy of his company and more importantly, protect the community from less scrupulous entities from providing substandard care.

Guam judiciary awarded $537,300 grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo said yesterday that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded the Judiciary of Guam $537,300 in federal financial assistance.

A total of $387,300 was awarded through the Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program to upgrade the Judiciary's sex offender management system. The funding will be used to ensure that all relevant and true data are compiled into Guam's Sex Offender Registry. Through this project Guam will increase the timeliness and accuracy of Guam's SOR information and conduct verification of all SOR data.

Another $150,000 was awarded through the FY11 National Criminal History Improvement Program to support the Judiciary's new Case Management System. The NCHIP seeks to improve the nation's safety and security by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of criminal history record information and by insuring the nationwide implementation of criminal justice and non-criminal justice background check systems. These funds will be used to establish connectivity between the new CMS system and the FBI.

Bordallo

"The grants received will help the Guam Judiciary improve information systems used to protect our community," said Bordallo. "These federal funds will be used to enhance data collection of sex offenders in Guam and improve information systems used by law enforcement. I commend the Judiciary for seeking these funds and I look forward to them benefiting our community." ***(PR)***

Man allegedly chokes 54-yr-old girlfriend

A drunk man allegedly choked his 54-year-old girlfriend early yesterday morning at their apartment in Afetnas during an argument over car payment.

Jephone D. Navarro, 38, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $125 cash.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan said that police officers had responded to Afetnas after a caller reported a disturbance at 11:53pm Thursday.

The alleged victim told police that she and Navarro were arguing about his share in the payment of their car when Navarro allegedly choked her, prompting her to scream.

Navarro let her go and walked to the kitchen, looking for a knife. The girlfriend ran to a neighbor's house where she asked for help.

Navarro denied the allegation.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig was appointed to represent the defendant. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Interior backs Guam's 'Buy-Local' initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs will be supporting a partnership between the University of Guam's Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives and the Guam Economic Development Authority to pursue a targeted marketing education campaign promoting the economic benefits of supporting local island businesses. The initial grant support of $150,000 will assist UOG and GEDA in launching the "Buy-Local" campaign in coming months.

Babauta

"I commend UOG and their leadership through President Underwood for putting this worthwhile initiative forward. Local small businesses strengthen the economic base of every community. This is about promoting local prosperity but also servers as an opportunity to highlight Chamorro culture and traditions through an aggressive and creative campaign," said Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta. "I hope this campaign has a dual effect of strengthening and highlighting any weaknesses in local laws promoting Guam-made goods."

The "buy-local" campaign expects to prompt a minimum shift of 10 percent toward purchasing locally-supplied goods and services on Guam by Guam consumers and businesses. The marketing campaign will showcase and incorporate native Chamorro cultural images and promote Guam's unique sense of place.

UOG's Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives hopes to develop a branding image and utilize ad space, purchase t-shirts, logos and other gear to creatively target all aspects of every-day Guam community life in an effort to change buying habits and unite local customers and local small businesses. ***(DOI)***

ADMIN

From Page 1

sole reason for its delinquency to the Fund. He denied that the government "abandoned" the pension plan.

"There's really one practical issue here: does the central government have the money [to pay the Fund]? We're not putting money into the Fund because we don't have the resources, but we are working closely with the Fund to make sure the required monthly pensions are met," he said, adding that the government will not allow a situation where pensions will not be issued to members at all.

Inos said he understand the concerns of retirees and assured that the government, despite its cash-flow problems, is committed to fulfilling its obligation to members.

The Fund's investment portfolio is now at a critical level, valued at just $271.2 million as of Aug. 16. The Fund's investment consultant, Wilshire Associates, blamed this state on the government's continued nonpayment of employer contributions, forcing the Fund to withdraw from its investment fund to meet its pension obligations to retirees. Latest data indicate that the plan has only three years of life left if no new money is added to the investment portfolio.

The Superior Court determined last year that the government's unpaid obligation to the Fund has already reached over $231 million. This continues to increase.

The Fund sought permission from the court last week to allow it to cut the pension benefits of retirees in order to prolong the life of the pension plan. It wants to implement this by Jan. 1, 2012.

The Fund insists that temporarily cutting the benefits paid to members would not affect the total amount the government owes retirees because the accrued benefits would not be adjusted.

The Fund also asked the court to allow the immediate turnover of Marianas House in Washington, D.C. to the Fund as partial satisfaction of the court judgment.

It also asked the court to reconsider an earlier ruling that mandated setting aside a $100 million reserve fund to protect the contributions of active government employees and retirees who have yet to collect their pension benefits.

CHILD TAX

From Page 1

Rota) also wrote yesterday to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, inquiring about the release of the 2010 child tax credit checks for qualified families in the CNMI.

"The 2011-2012 school year is right around the corner and many families are in need of financial assistance. The federally funded child tax credit will be a great help as they prepare for the upcoming school year. Consequently, I would like to follow up on the status of this tax credit and request for its expedient release," Manglona told Larson.

Back in July, the administration said it's looking at the release of some $5 million to $6 million in child tax credit checks in time for the school opening in September. Public schools will open on Sept. 6, a day after Labor Day. Private schools opened in August.

Yesterday, parents started inquiring whether the checks are already in the mail, considering that this will be the last weekend before public schools open.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

In general, a "qualifying" child is any individual for whom the taxpayer can claim a dependency exemption and who is the taxpayer's son or daughter, stepson or stepdaughter, brother or sister, or eligible foster child.

Some $7 million in tax rebate and refund checks are expected to be released later this year, and it may be in time for Christmas shopping. The CNMI government's financial problems make it harder to release tax rebate and refund checks earlier than expected.

The Fitial administration said the rebate and refund trust account is almost empty, and that priority goes to the delivery of critical services and payroll. Payroll is almost always delayed for non-critical government employees since June 2010 because of cash shortage.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer. It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

AUGUST

From Page 1

months of 2010 to only 284 so far this year.

Triple "J" Motors sold the most new units with 12 or 43 percent of the market, followed by Joeten Motors with nine units or 32 percent of the market, then Microl Corp. with seven units or 25 percent of the market.

Randy Steele, general manager of Triple "J" Motors, said they're "very satisfied" with the sales month that they had in August. Triple "J" Motors is the authorized dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda.

"Our new promotion for August featuring the arrival of 2012 Hyundais with their new 10-year/10,000-mile Limited Powertrain Warranty was a consistent driver of traffic to our dealership. We also started the month with a deep inventory of quality, reconditioned used cars and the public noticed by purchasing 14 of those cars in August," Steele said in a statement.

Douglas Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp., said Microl—the authorized dealer of new Toyotas and Chevrolets—is pleased that the supply lines are finally reopening after the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan.

"We now have an inventory," he added.

Joeten Motors, meanwhile, is the authorized distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia.

The local automotive industry has been seeing mostly monthly decreases in sales for years now as a result of a weak economy.

Of the 28 new vehicles sold in August, 12 were cars, eight were SUVs, five were trucks, and three were vans.

Hyundai Elantra and Mazda3 were the most saleable cars in August with three units sold each, followed by Toyota Corolla with two. CADA also sold one unit each of Ford Fiesta, Hyundai Accent, Mazda2 and Toyota Yaris.

Toyota RAV4 sold the most SUVs with three, followed by Kia Sportage and Mazda CX7 with two units each, and Ford Explorer with one sold unit in August.

Of the five trucks sold last month, three were Nissan Frontier and two were Ford Ranger.

There were only three vans sold in August: two Mazda5 and one Toyota Sienna.

CADA also sold 24 used vehicles in August, bringing to 177 the total sold so far this year.

Triple "J" Motors sold 14 of the 24 used vehicles sold last month, followed by Microl Corp. with six, and Joeten Motors with four.

Fitial: Credit for $1M food stamp should go to local officials

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed grave disappointment yesterday with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, accusing him of continuing "to undermine the hard work of local government officials" in securing much needed food stamp funding for the Commonwealth's needy residents.

An Office of the Governor statement yesterday quoted a communication from Jesus Mendoza, Jr., deputy regional administrator of USDA- Food and Nutrition Service's Western Regional Office, that stated: "On behalf of Allen Ng, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service Western Region Administrator, I am providing your office with official notification that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive an additional one-time funding in federal fiscal year 2012 in the amount of $1,000,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In addition, I would like to inform you that Mr. Ng also called Mr. Melvin Faisao to inform him of the additional funds."

Mendoza also noted that DCCA Secretary Faisao and CNMI NAP administrator Eleanor Cruz continue to remain actively engage in ensuring that low-income families get the assistance they deserve.

"USDA-FNS appreciates your government's dedication to the families of CNMI, and we will continue to work with Mr. Melvin Faisao and Ms. Eleanor Cruz to ensure the proper actions are taken," stated Mendoza.

Fitial lauded DCCA and the local NAP office for their diligent service to the people of the Commonwealth.

"During these particularly tough economic times, I am very disappointed to hear that some elected officials are more interested in taking credit for additional federal assistance for our people," said Fitial in a statement yesterday. "Instead, our leaders should be focused on advocating policies and economic incentives that will truly bring about long term financial stability for our Commonwealth."

This is not the first time that the governor has come out in defense of local government employees who strive to make a difference for families across the CNMI. Nonetheless, Fitial vowed to continue defending and praising the work of local government officials "who often go unrecognized simply because certain elected leaders want to mislead the public and grab credit by all means necessary," the statement adds.

"This political grandstanding does nothing more than take away from the hard work being done on a daily basis by the employees of my administration. No one understands the economic needs of our citizens more than the fine men and women that work here, on island, in the CNMI government; and I will never disrespect their hard work by taking credit away from them," said Fitial. "Talk is cheap but actions are what matters most and I thank everyone working in my administration for the actions they take every day for the Commonwealth's benefit."

Fitial suggested that elected officials "should spend more time working on legislation that provides long term economic stability for native people instead of working on band aid solutions and back-door granting of U.S. citizenship for nonresident workers."

Fitial added, "While we appreciate the federal government's assistance during these hard times, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and I are working tirelessly with the CNMI Legislature on attracting new industries to the Commonwealth so that our citizens won't have to rely heavily on their assistance."

The governor also said that he welcomes the assistance from every elected CNMI official "because at the end of the day, it's not the credit that matters, but the benefits every CNMI citizen will reap as a result of a united and effective leadership." ***(PR)***

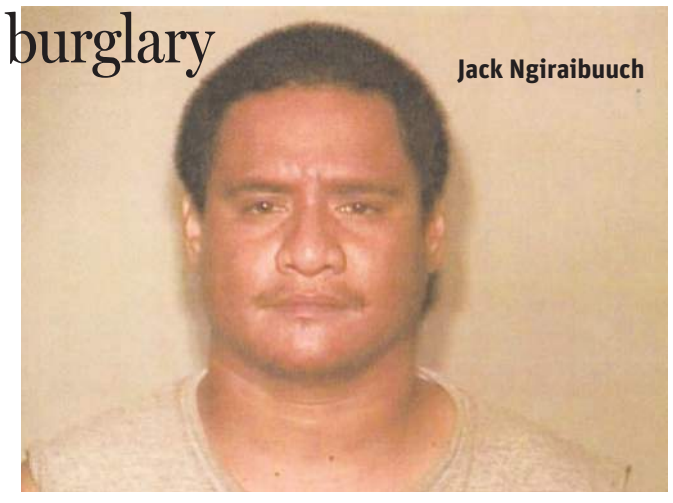
Police seek fugitive for alleged burglary

The Department of Public Safety is asking for the public's assistance in locating a fugitive. On Wednesday, Aug. 31, Associate Judge Perry Inos issued an arrest warrant for Jack Ngiraibuuch, a Palauan male, age 35.

Ngirabuuch has been charged with burglary and theft. His last residence was in Chalan Kanoa. Police have checked his residence and he is nowhere to be found. It is believed that he is hiding from police.

If spotted, do not attempt to apprehend Ngirabuuch. Call 911 and report the suspect's location.

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigative Bureau and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the community. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. ***(DPS)***


Jack Ngiraibuuch

Korean talk show films on Saipan

Popular Korean talk show "Darling" is delivering a "darling" of a deal to the Northern Mariana Islands this week as 65 cast and crew members arrive to film in this beach resort destination.

"Darling" features celebrity married couples and airs on SBS, one of Korea's top three nationwide TV channels. The estimated ad exposure value of the shoot is $4.7 million US dollars. Korea is in one of the CNMI's primary tourism markets.

"This is an excellent opportunity to promote the Northern Marianas as a romantic travel destination for couples and to enhance our image by linking with celebrity couples," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The group arrived on Sept. 1 and filming will be held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, award-winning Managaha island, and picturesque Banzai Cliff. The group departs on Sunday, Sept. 4.

"Darling" has an 8.5 percent viewership rate and is especially popular among women ages 30 to 50. The filming is supported by the MVA, Asiana Airlines, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, PIC Saipan, and Hana Tour. ***(MVA)***

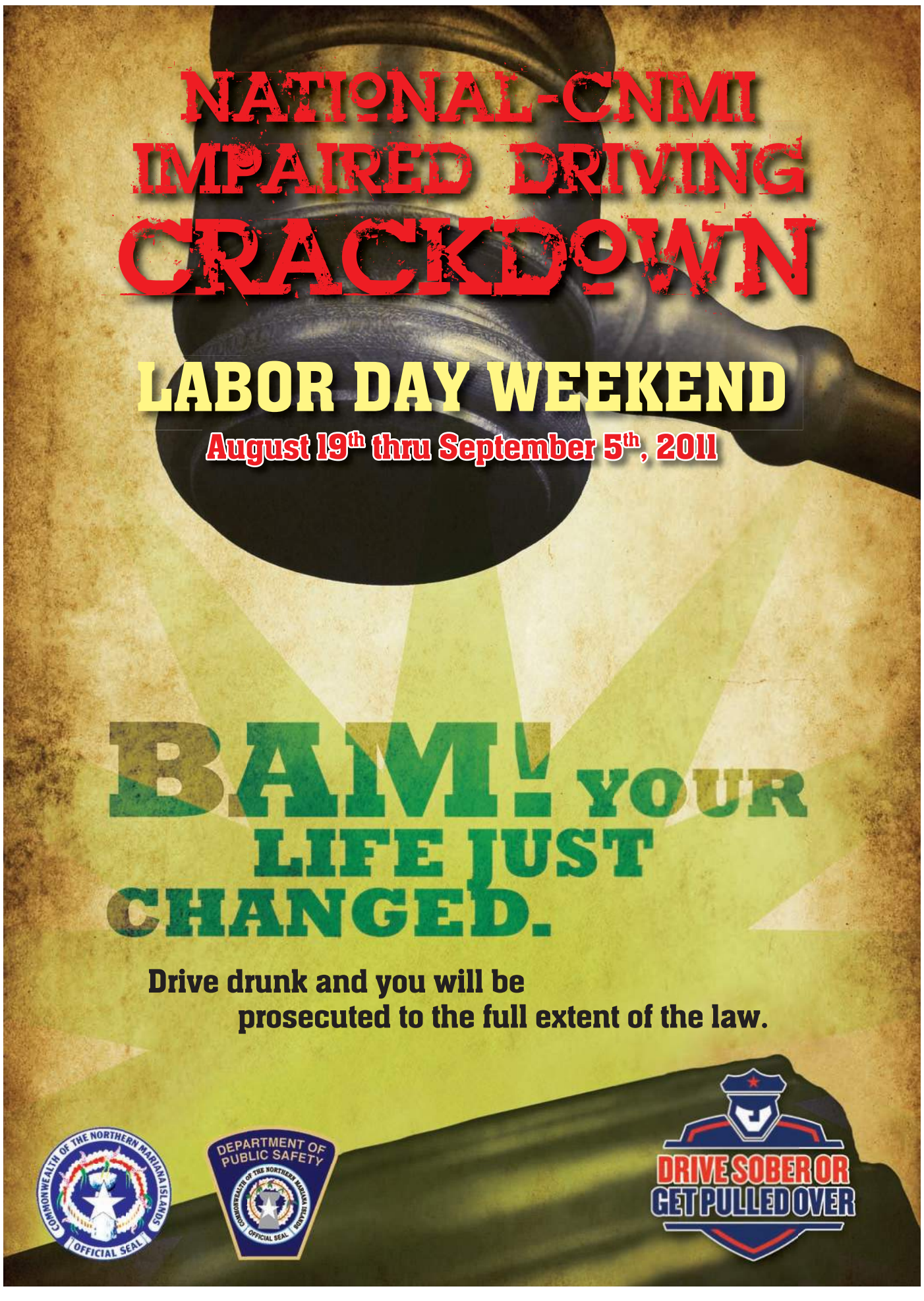
Cargo hose rupture at Guam port

GUAM—The U.S. Coast Guard received notification from Tristar Terminals that a cargo hose ruptured while transferring liquefied petroleum gas from the *Gas Shuriken* about 11:20 yesterday morning.

Coast Guard responders assessed the release along with the Guam Fire Department and the Port Authority of Guam. A safety zone was established, extending 800 meters on the waterside from Pier F1, and 300 meters on the shore side. The entrance to Cabras Island Channel was temporarily closed at Southwest Point.

At this time, the safety zone has been cancelled and vessel traffic can resume operating in the channel.

Mariners are reminded to always monitor VHF Channel 16 for safety broadcasts and port information while underway. ***(USCG)***


NATIONAL-CNMI
IMPAIRED DRIVING
CRACKDOWN
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
August 19th thru September 5th, 2011
BAM! YOUR LIFE JUST CHANGED.
Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Is your hairstyle making you fat? Surgeon General wants women to exercise more

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WARNING: The U.S. Surgeon General has determined that hair relaxers can be hazardous to your health.

It's not because they're habit-forming or carcinogenic or a gateway to more dangerous substances. It's because a woman who spent $60 and four (or eight) hours in the stylist's chair is not going to be eager to hit the gym and wreck her hair, and if you don't get that, well, you're probably a guy.

Surgeon General Regina Benjamin gets it. She is a doctor whose mother was a hairstylist. She knows high-maintenance hair can be an obstacle to exercise, especially for African-American women like herself. She's performing a huge public service by calling women out on it.

"Oftentimes you get women saying, 'I can't exercise today because I don't want to sweat my hair back or get my hair wet,'" Benjamin told *The New York Times*. "I hate to use the word 'excuse,' but that's one of them."

Dedicated female jocks tend to have wash-and-wear hair to facilitate their regular visits to the gym, but for everyone else, the post-workout hair regimen is a lot like starting over. Sweat and water have a way of undoing the work of flattening irons, curling wands and blow dryers. Who has time to do all that again? And who wants to haul around all that gear—not to mention all that "product"? Let's not even mention the makeup thing.

Again, you get it or you don't. Jeff Stier, a senior fellow at the conservative National Center for Public Policy Research, doesn't. "The role of the surgeon general is traditionally and appropriately to take on big issues," he told the Times. "I don't know whether the surgeon general's role is to engage in smaller issues like this. It strikes me as bizarre."

Bizarre? What's bizarre about targeting behaviors that contribute to our nationwide obesity epidemic, and the heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure that go with it?

Telling women to eat moderately and get in 150 minutes worth of cardio each week obviously isn't getting the job done. Give Benjamin credit for having the moxie to recognize one reason for that.

Since assuming the post last year, Benjamin has lectured about fitness, tinkered with the food pyramid and urged doctors, employers and others to support and promote breastfeeding. Encouraging women to put their health before their hairstyles fits right in with that agenda. It rings true with every woman who's given up aerobics or lap-swimming or biking—helmet head, anyone?—for want of an extra hour to repair her hair.

The people who don't get it tend to be the ones with receding hairlines. (Go ahead, Google Jeff Stier.)

And speaking of guys, the CDC says 32 percent of men are obese, which suggests an awful lot of them aren't spending enough time on the treadmill, either. What's their excuse?

NRK
QUIET PLEASE... THE PRESIDENT IS THINKING DEEP THOUGHTS...SO DEEP THAT MERE MORTALS LIKE YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.
COULD YOU TELL HIM TO THINK FASTER?
JOBS PROGRAM Step 1:
The UNEMPLOYED

Iraqi chaos: Understanding the enemies within

By KERRY C. KACHEJIAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Kerry C. Kachejian is a combat veteran of Stability and Reconstruction Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and the author of SUVs Suck in Combat: Rebuilding Iraq during a Raging Insurgency *(available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble). www.kerrykachejian.com*

They're at it again. Iraqis are killing each other in dramatic fashion. To most Americans, the violence in Iraq is pure chaos. It didn't seem to make sense to me, until I put boots on the ground there a few years ago while rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure. So let me try to break the code and explain what is going on.

Most Iraqi citizens simply want a decent job, a good school for their children, a safe neighborhood, electrical service to their home and clean water to drink. That would level the playing field across most of the country. But some groups in Iraq want more.

American troops faced three clear enemies during the insurgency: former Ba'ath Party loyalists, Shia militiamen and al-Qaida terrorists. Elements of these groups still exist and are at the core of the fighting. We could tell which enemy was attacking us by where and how they did it. Some enemy attackers were in it for the money or power. Some were just criminals. Some were terrorists. It was a daily blend of bad actors, often using religion as a cover to hide their true motivations.

Ba'athists

Primarily Sunni Muslims who were loyal political followers of Saddam Hussein, Ba'athists were well educated and had held senior positions in the military and Iraqi society. During Hussein's rule, the Sunni Ba'athist minority suppressed the Shia Muslim majority. Decrees later issued by Ambassador Bremer in the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) stripped most Ba'athists of their former status and barred them from serving in the new military or government. They also lost control of Iraq's major oil fields in Basrah and Kirkuk.

When the Iraqi Army was disbanded, many Ba'athists started the insurgency in the "Sunni Triangle". They had everything to gain by pushing the Americans out of Iraq. They wanted to return to power and the former good life. Having the United States as a common enemy, they formed an alliance with al-Qaida Iraq (AQI), providing the foreign terrorists with a safe haven to conduct their operations. As the military, political, academic and social elite, Ba'athists were tactically competent, smart and aggressive fighters. They often had nice cars; if a BMW raced up from behind you at 100 mph and someone sprayed your vehicle with 30 rounds from an AK-47, you can bet it was Ba'athists. They were also masterful at making car bombs and hitting Shia targets.

Shia Militias

Many of these groups were loyal to the cleric Muqtada al Sadr. Although the Shia were the majority in Iraq, they were often denied education, electricity, and social services, and sometimes brutally suppressed by Saddam. While the Shia were initially thrilled when the US overthrew Saddam, they had mixed loyalties and many wanted to exact revenge on the Sunnis. Many felt aligned with predominantly Shia Iran. Some wanted Americans to leave immediately after Saddam fell, so they could control the country. But they lacked the technical competence to run the Iraqi government, military and critical industries.

Shia militias would often start uprisings in Sadr City, a slum in Baghdad with 2.5 million Shia and a stronghold for militiamen. The Shia had less tactical training and would take unnecessary risks, often believing their faith would protect them from harm, or their death would make them a martyr. If a fighter stood in the street – totally exposed with an AK-47 or an RPG pointed at you – it was probably a Shia militiaman. Their tactics and marksmanship were poor. Shia militiamen often died young, but they did so with style. For a few weeks, the Madhi Army militiamen wore white armbands as their "uniform" to distinguish them as an organized fighting force. That made targeting them much easier.

Al-Qaida Iraq (AQI)

Mostly foreign-born terrorists that came to Iraq to fight Americans, al-Qaida probably numbered in the low thousands at their peak strength. But their effectiveness far exceeded their numbers. A stable and prosperous Iraq was not in the interests of AQI. Their strategy was to discredit the US and the Interim Iraqi Government by all means possible, including disrupting our reconstruction progress. They were not constrained by the Geneva Convention or held accountable for their actions by the UN, world public opinion or the news media. AQI teamed with and paid other Iraqi groups to attack Americans.

The core al-Qaida members were ruthless and evil, totally committed and willing to die. Many volunteered to be suicide bombers. They slaughtered many innocent Iraqis who got in their way. They bombed markets, schools and mosques to inflict widespread fear. Their strategy was to create a civil war between Sunnis and Shia to completely destabilize Iraq and force the Americans to withdraw. That would leave Iraq open to be another terrorist safe haven. They had a propaganda arm and posted videos on the internet of beheadings and executions. They were unbelievably inhumane, and proud of it. Their senseless cruelty was later rejected by the Sunni Ba'athists who eventually turned on AQI.

We knew we were up against al-Qaida if a car bomb drove up next to a convoy and detonated, or if all the teachers were murdered in front of their students soon after we completed the construction of a school. Drivers of reconstruction convoys were kidnapped by AQI and beheaded. If the owner of an Iraqi construction company, under contract to the United States, was followed home and murdered along with his family, it was probably at the hands of al-Qaida.

This was the multi-faction war we saw every day in our struggle to rebuild Iraq, but few in America were aware of what was really happening. I hope this provides a better understanding of the Iraqi violence and the players when the next "breaking news" report is filed from Baghdad.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Eco-democracy circles

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

All my life's a circle, sunrise and sundown, crooned the late Harry Chapin before the fateful day when his VW Beetle took a different lane on the New England road just when Charles and Di were going to captivate the world with their fairy tale, souvenir book nuptials. Ah, but that was many years ago.

Today, I hit the road running in facilitating circles of relationships and networks of trusts among students at Shenyang Aerospace University in Liaoning, China. In my private diary, I dub it as "See Are See," which is my code for seeing/living Reality as it is ("are" being the verb for existence and essence as YHWH was the symbolic term in old Judah); CRC is also China Resurgence Circle, China Reality Check, or Citizens' Reformulation Circles. The intent is to open the door to profound humanness discourses in indigenous communal Buddhist, Taoist, and socialist metaphors and forms.

We thought of starting a Chamolinian (Chamorro/Carolinian) Resurgence Circle back in the good old days when *taotao tano* and *taotao tasi* were still unjaded terms but political meanings and racial distortions got into the C-words so we dropped the idea like hot *kamote*. We are part of a global Christian Resurgence Circle (tenuously holding on to the Christian term since its notoriety is more for its anomalies than its promise of authentic existence) clothed in imperial theocratic patriarchy that obscures the *logos'* liberating, but that is part of our tradition, and until we intone the extreme unction on it, we live in confessional humility for all its distortions and excesses.

We are on the nostalgic side, (we even attended a Catholic Mass so we can listen to the Chinese priest chant the liturgy in his ESL) so CRC—See Are See—will do fine in the meantime. We belabor this point because one of our colleagues, who read our four-part series on Eco-Democracy, wanted to know how I walk my own talk.

Last semester, we were asked to join a Japanese, Nigerian, and Chinese group perform Zhongguo and English songs at a university song, skit, and dance evening performance. I did. In turn, I invited the group to drop in at my one-room flat Friday evening for conversations. They came, all eight of them, plus a couple hangers-on and they walked into a room with a mantle cloth on the coffee table, low music on the background, and candles in a couple of strategic places—in short, intentionalised space.

It did not take long before the conversation that began with computer games and the latest in fashion and digitized gadgetry turned into their rationale for coming to the university, their struggles with the irrelevance of their studies, and whether they will come out prepared to meet the realities of life when they are educationally certificated. Neither coercive nor manipulative, the conversations led into existential significance. The group decided to meet weekly thereafter.

What we know is that individual identity and vocation emerges out of community and not in isolation, and the group's individual glocal identity (amazing to see the not too divergent views of Chinese, Nigerian, Japanese, and Filipino-American humans on the impingement of global times) had more in common than initially thought.

In any social grouping, I watch out for four dynamics: one, is the nature of the group-think, our imaginal constructs that situate us from the cosmos to the cell; two, the symbols that rehearse common understandings of vision and mission; third, the manner by which we declare our vision of reality; and four, the strategic demonstration and embodiment of that vision in our communal existence. In brief, the word, the rites, the vision, and the mission, all wrapped in the gracious disciplines of time management, space design, role definition, and story articulation. These four dynamics and the wrap-around gel make/break a group, and it applies as much to the seemingly reactionary tea party as it does the progressive ones.

I am in the business of building small communities, in China, circles of ESLs dealing with the content of profound humanity, ecology-contexted and democracy-guided. Eco-democracy is in the menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, yes, snacks in between, and, of course, classroom times!

This may not be specific enough if one is looking for a prescriptive manual of operations, but the virtue of human circles is that content and form are provided by the participants rather than on the recommendation of renowned experts. The circles are intended to be self-sustaining and self-reliant, aided by infrequent but regular assemblies and symposia on methodology on the four group dynamics for interchange and synergy.

Anyone can do a similar feat as long as we understand the American adage, "One can get anything done if one is not too concerned about who gets the credit." Face is a big deal in China. We leave it outside the door in the circles! Eco-democracy is nothing more than a planetary context, and a democratic form of deliberation that honors the unique value of each individual. No big schemes, and funding requirement is nil. But profound humanity, Chinese style, stands a chance at moving on.

All my life's a circle, sunrise and sundown.

Palin the procrastinator: It's time for her to decide

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Sarah Palin is giving indecision a bad name.

Not only can't she decide whether to run for president, this week she even waffled over whether to keep a date to speak at a "tea party" rally in Iowa on Sunday, a Sarah-palooza her devotees have been organizing for weeks.

Every other serious Republican presidential hopeful has already decided, one way or the other. Mitt Romney's been running for years. Rick Perry's been running for only three weeks, but he spent months laying the groundwork. Only Palin continues to dither, even though she says she thinks the nation would benefit from having more candidates.

"The more the merrier," she said last month when it became clear that Perry was in. "The more ideas that are debated out there, the better for the electorate. You all deserve good choices in this 2012 election."

But Palin? The former Alaska governor surfaces without warning every month or so, like the Loch Ness monster, to let her supporters know she still exists. She insists that she has what it takes to run for president—"that fire in the belly"—and that she believes she could win.

"That passion is real, it's sincere, because I love this country," she told Fox News last month.

But she never quite says yes or no.

"I'm still considering it," she said.

What's holding her back? "The impact on family," she said.

And can a decision wait much longer?

"August and September," she promised last month. "You do have to start laying out a plan if you are to be one to throw your hat in the ring."

There are plenty of people who want Palin to run.

She still places third in most national polls of Republican voters, behind Perry and Romney, and that might rise if she actually declared.

She has thousands of devoted fans who have organized grassroots committees, set up websites and spent hours messaging one another in excitement after every hint of interest from their heroine.

There's Romney, who wouldn't mind seeing the hard-core tea party vote split three ways among Palin, Perry and Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn.

There are the moguls who own the nation's television news channels; they know the endless photogenic family drama of Sarah Palin is good for their ratings.

And there are reporters like me, who simply yearn to see how Palin would do in the scrum of a genuine GOP debate instead of the carefully chosen, friendly audiences she sticks to now.

But after the last few weeks, all of us—love-struck fans and cranky cynics alike—are losing hope.

By any rational interpretation of her behavior, Republican strategists say, Palin doesn't appear to intend to run, because she hasn't done any of the quiet but serious preparatory work that a potential candidate normally undertakes.

Defense cuts could threaten 'Achilles' heel' of US power

By E. THOMAS MCCLANAHAN
The Kansas City Star

E. Thomas McClanahan is a member of the Kansas City Star *editorial board. Readers may write to him at: Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, Mo. 64108-1413, or by email at mcclanahan@kcstar.com.*

The Japanese government recently issued a diplomatic white paper calling China "assertive" toward its neighbors. Despite the namby-pamby choice of words—China merely assertive?—Beijing pitched a fit.

It huffed its "strong opposition," reminded Tokyo yet again of Japanese aggression in World War II and accused Tokyo of furthering the "China threat theory," as if no such thing existed—even though China never misses an opportunity to rattle its neighbors' nerves.

It was a small incident, but a reminder that the security climate in a critical part of the world is becoming more dicey. At the same time, Iran continues its drive to dominate the Persian Gulf, with the goal of controlling one of the most important choke points of the world's energy supply.

The aggressive behavior of these two powers is especially worrisome given the prospect of severe U.S. defense cuts. In this summer's debt-ceiling deal, Congress agreed to initial spending trims, then gave a 12-member, bipartisan "supercommittee" the job of finding $1.5 trillion more.

The panel must finish its work by Nov. 23. If it fails, the cuts will be automatic and half would be carved out of defense.

While the public's attention has been focused on the threat of Islamic jihadism and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the challenge from Iran and China has grown.

Many point out that U.S. defense spending far outstrips that of any other country.

Our weapons systems and capabilities are unparalleled. As we were reminded repeatedly during the Libyan crisis, the United States possesses "unique capabilities."

But what matters isn't the snapshot—the situation as it stands today. What matters is the trend, and the trend is worrisome. Our defense budget is threatened while both China and Iran are investing in weapons that could eventually deny U.S. access to much of the western Pacific and the Persian Gulf. That would degrade America's value as an ally and force some allies to question the value of a U.S. tie. It is a scenario of U.S. decline.

Comparing defense spending levels is a misleading metric. While U.S. forces must operate at the end of long supply lines, countries like China or Iran can potentially dominate their regions at far less cost merely because of proximity.

As a retired Indian general noted, the "Achilles' heel" of the U.S. strategic posture is its dependence on forward bases. Deny access to those bases and you roll back American power. The general's observation was included in a paper by Andrew Krepinevich of the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, a defense-oriented think tank.

Both China and Iran are well along in their efforts to achieve "access denial," Krepinevich wrote.

China is developing anti-satellite weapons, boosting its cyberwarfare capabilities, threatening America's computerized command-and-control networks.

It is building up its conventional forces, including the recent launch of its first aircraft carrier. China is also investing heavily in medium-range missiles, a weapon category in which the U.S. was disarmed by a Cold War treaty with Moscow.

Iran's military capabilities are far less imposing, but it enjoys important crucial geographic advantages. The Persian Gulf's entire eastern shore is Iranian territory, much of it fronted by a high ridge and lined with dozens of ports and harbors capable of hiding patrol boats and other small craft.

Any U.S. force passing the narrow Strait of Hormuz during a confrontation could expect to face a "hornet's nest of Iranian mines, submarines, torpedoes, anti-ship cruise missiles and suicide swarm boats, supplemented by land-based strike aircraft and Special Forces," Krepinevich wrote.

Keeping the peace requires deterrence, and deterrence requires strength. Count on Beijing and Teheran to closely follow the work of the supercommittee.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼78°	▲84° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

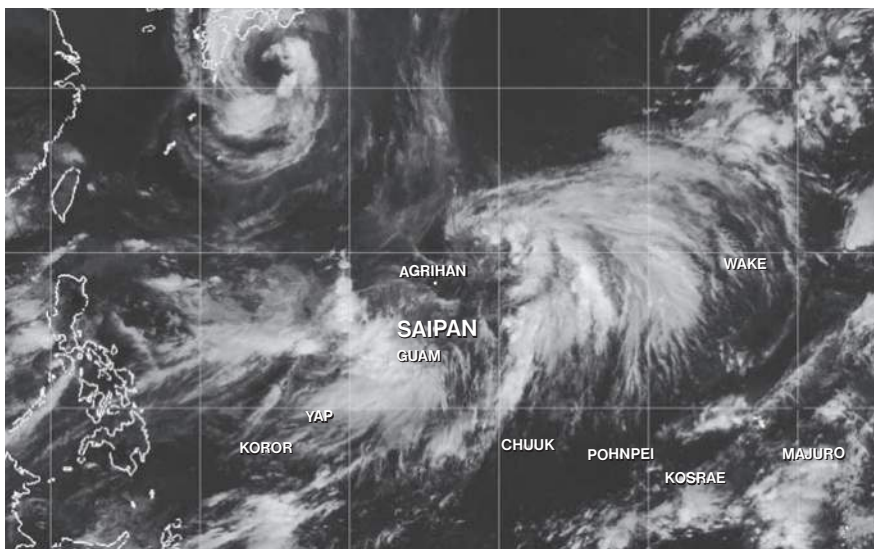
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
London	Showers	▲79	▼60
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼57
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64
Osaka	Rain	▲83	▼77
Paris	Sunny	▲84	▼63
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼73
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Seoul	Sunny	▲85	▼67
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from near Iwo To island through 25N139E to west of Guam near 14N143E then continues to near Chuuk to end at 6N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the monsoon trough between 10N and 16N from 139E to 144E. Similar conditions are also found in convergent west winds north of Koror and Yap between 14N and 17N from 130E to 138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in convergent west winds south of Koror between the equator and 4N from 134E to 137E. A circulation is centered at 21N151E convergent south southeast and east winds east and south of the circulation are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Minami Torishima between 14N and 24N from 150E to 163E and northwest of Chuuk within 60 miles of line from 14N151E to 7N147E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 1N158E to 6N180E and southeast of Wake Island within 90 miles of a line from 13N176E to 16N174E. An upper-level circulation northeast of Wake Island is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between 21N and 23N from 173E to 176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:32 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
11:03 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:52 AM	10:32 PM
Sunday	11:53 AM	11:27 PM
Monday	12:52 PM	
Tuesday	1:48 PM	12:24 AM
Wednesday	2:39 PM	1:21 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 3, 1999

CPA falls behind debt service
Battered by the continuous decline in arrivals, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is unable to raise the much needed revenues to meet its debt coverage ratio of 1.25 for the airport and seaport bonds. According to CPA's financial report, the airport debt coverage ratio is off by 1.05 or approximately $1.3 million from the operating activities to meet the required ratio of 1.25 in the last 10 months of fiscal year 1999. This is translated into a monthly shortfall of $130,000. Actual cash available for debt service as of July 1999 is only $53,834. Interest on the $20 million bond is payable semi-annually at 6.25 percent.

$10M set aside for Rota airport expansion project
The Rota Leadership First Senatorial District has set aside some $10 million of its Capital Improvement Project funds for the extension of the Rota International Airport runway. In a letter sent to Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona expressed hope that either CPA or FAA can match the amount to complete the runway extension project and carry out other improvements at the airport facilities. Since the island's economy is the number one priority of Rota's political leaders, Manglona urged Salas to proceed without unnecessary delays the planning on the project.

Sept. 3, 2001

Fitial echoes Senate's call for Teno's report
House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has agreed to the Senate's suggestion to hold a joint session for Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's State of the Commonwealth address and Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta's State of the Washington Office report. The hitch is that Fitial wants both speeches in October, and not September as suggested by Senate President Paul A. Manglona. During an interview last night, Fitial said the House of Representatives will hold a session tomorrow, Tuesday, where he plans to call for a joint session of both chambers of the 12th CNMI Legislature for the State of the Commonwealth address and the State of the Washington Office report.

NMIRF: OPA concerns are moot
Crying foul over news reports that it characterized as "unfair," the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund insists that the concerns raised by the Office of the Public Auditor over the travel expenses of Fund officials has already been addressed by the Fund, "many of them long before the audit took place." In a statement issued by Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker, she said that several news reports that recently came out about the Fund's travel expenses-based on an OPA audit report-lacked crucial, yet readily available information, that resulted in a mischaracterization of the NMIRF, its policies and activities.

Sept. 3, 2002

Northern Islands ask for 3 new schools
The Public School System is seriously studying proposals to construct three elementary schools in the Northern Islands. The PSS said the proposal to build grade schools on Alamagan, Agrigan and Pagan was submitted by the Northern Islands' local government as part of its long-term resettlement plan. Under the Northern Islands Development Plan, there will be an expeditious resettlement of residents of Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrigan and the implementation of the economic development programs and activities to assure that the settlements are safe and sustainable.

'Use CIP monies to pay for land claims'
A joint resolution that asks the U.S. Department of the Interior to allocate CIP funds to settle land compensation claims is now before the House of Representatives for consideration and adoption. The Senate recently adopted Senate Joint Resolution 13-4, which seeks to convince Interior Secretary Gale Norton to allot portions of Covenant 702 funds toward settling land compensation claims of residents whose properties were acquired by the Commonwealth for easement or right-of-way purposes to complete CIP projects. The measure, authored by Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano, is separate from the recently enacted House Bill 13-1-now known as Public Law 13-17-which authorizes the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the Commonwealth Development Authority to borrow $40 million to settle land compensation claims against the CNMI government.

Maharlika

Hundreds bid farewell to ex-UFO president Awit

Hundreds of friends and colleagues gathered at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan Tuesday night for the last day of rosary and public viewing of former United Filipino Organization president Ramon Awit.

Awit, who is also a former officer of MDX Amateur Radio Club and the Visayas – Mindanao Association, suffered a massive stroke at past 5pm on Aug. 20 at Aqua Resort Club where he worked as a restaurant manager.

Staff at the Commonwealth Health Center pronounced Awit dead on Aug. 22 at 3:50pm or 20 minutes after the life support machine that sustained him was unplugged. He was 43.

Awit is survived by his wife Annamae Adaza and children Riggz, Ronn, and Ramhae.

Tuesday's rosary was followed by a Mass and the public viewing of Awit's remains, with close friends and associates queuing in long lines for a last glimpse of an individual who is best remembered and well- loved for his "soft heart," "fatherly advices," "civic-mindedness," and "remarkable sense of humor."

Awit's remains were flown at midnight of Aug. 31 via Delta Air Lines to Manila, Philippines. His wife and children are scheduled to fly to Manila tomorrow, Sept. 4.

Awit will be laid to rest at the Garden of Memories in Pateros, Manila on Sept. 8. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hundreds troop to the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch during its village-to-village medical mission.

500-plus benefit from medical missions

Over 500 individuals were served by the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch during its village-to-village medical mission conducted throughout Saipan.

Church representative Ronnie Doca said the medical mission is part of the church's global mission of providing public service to the community through Dalaw Kalinga (Care Visit) Foundation.

"The medical mission is a way to reach out to the community," Doca told *Saipan Tribune*.

The church brought its medical missions to Tanapag, Garapan, Gualo Rai, Chalan Kanoa, San Antonio, and Koblerville.

Doca said their most recent medical mission, held at the Kagman Community Center on Aug. 13, was a success.

Mission volunteers provided various services such as height and weight measurement, blood sugar and blood pressure check-ups, vision screening, reflexology, haircut, facial massage, and spiritual counseling.

Doca noted that the Kagman event was the last village-to-village medical mission as they will bring the project back to their church in San Jose on Sept. 25 in celebration of the church's anniversary. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Consular team to head to Tinian, Rota

The Philippine Consulate General will conduct mobile services for Filipinos on Rota next month, two weeks after they carry out the same services on Tinian.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said Wednesday that the Philippine Consulate General will hold the mobile consular services on Oct. 1 and 2, Saturday and Sunday, at the Rota campus of the Northern Marianas College.

The Tinian consular services, meanwhile, will be conducted on Sept. 16 and 17, Friday and Saturday, at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Macaraig will lead the team, composed of consular officers and staff and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

"The Philippine Consulate General expresses its appreciation to the untiring support of the Filipino community in Rota led by Mr. Ali Badiles," he said.

The requirements for those who wish to apply or renew their ePassports remain the same, except for a photograph, which is no longer required.

Information about requirements for passport and other consular documents may be found at the consulate's website, www.philippinessaipan.org.

To facilitate the process and allow the consulate to serve more Filipinos, Macaraig asks passport applicants to download the application form from the website and send the accomplished form via fax to 234-1849, email to saipanpcg@pticom.com, or postal mail to P.O. Box 500731 Saipan, 96950 CNMI.

For more information, call the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1848. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Posada builds a career out of her 'gift of touch'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Those who've never tried getting a massage are missing out on one of the surest feel-good way to unwind, pamper, and indulge oneself. Those who do swear to its medical benefits as well.

And since massage is an intimate experience that involves the rubbing and stroking of one's skin and muscles, it helps to find the right health care professional who knows not just the techniques that would suit you but also how to make you feel comfortable.

Massage therapist Angie Posada knows this only too well—that rapport with a client is as essential as one's massaging skill. With a clientele base not only on Saipan but also from neighboring islands, many of her customers keep coming back for more of her excellent massage skills and affable demeanor.

"I feel blessed that I have customers all the way from Guam and Hawaii and they would always come back and look for me when they want a massage," Posada told *Saipan Tribune*.

Posada said her loyal customers treat her like family that they even recently sponsored her surgery, medication, and accommodations to treat her goiter in the Philippines. Moreover, these customers even brought her along during their trips to Hong Kong, China, and Thailand.

"They know who they are and all I can say is a million thanks to them. God knows the goodness of their hearts and I wish more blessings for them," she said.

CLARISSA DAVID

Serenity Salon & Spa massage therapist Angie Posada.

Making of a massage therapist

A native of Virac, Catanduanes, Posada began her career in massage therapy in 1994 when she received training for back massage, then whole body massage at the New Age Day Spa-Zen at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"When I was young, my father would ask me to massage his legs when he gets tired from work. But it was my sister who was already working as a masseuse at Palm Garden and encouraged me to undergo training," she revealed.

Posada worked at New Age Day Spa-Zen until 1997 when she moved to Saipan and worked as a massage therapist initially at Abby's Beauty Salon & Spa, then MSV Beauty Salon & Spa. Since 2010, she has been employed with Serenity Salon & Spa.

"It's quite hard to do massage because it could be exhausting," said Posada, explaining how she would use all her energy for long strokes, enough kneading pressure or focusing on sensitive or painful areas.

Doing a massage, Posada noted, becomes particularly difficult when she cannot please and satisfy a customer despite all her efforts.

"A massage just usually lasts an hour but there are times when even after two hours, my massage techniques still seem to be not enough," she said.

Although she has been a massage therapist for almost two decades, Posada said it took her some time to get used to seeing a stranger strip in front of her.

"Before, I would really freeze when I see my customer butt naked. Not anymore. I'm totally okay with it," she said.

Which ones are easier to massage—men or women?

Posada says it all depends on a person's build and the kind of pressure they prefer.

Verbal harassment

With her long experience as a massage therapist, Posada said she has had her share of offensive encounters with lewd male customers who "verbally harass" her. In one instance, a customer asked her to massage his privates. In another, a client asked her, "Do you do extra job?"

"I cried," revealed Posada. "I felt humiliated because that's how they thought of me."

At times, Posada would get tired after doing numerous massages in a day, causing her to experience numbness in her thumbs and index fingers. Occasionally, her wrists would also feel wiped out.

"Massage therapists have this remedy wherein they dip their hands in warm water and apply jojoba lotion afterwards. It helps relax the hands, which are important in doing massages. It also prevents *pasma,*" she said.

Posada would also do circular motion exercises with her fingers and hands to relieve soreness.

After massaging one customer and before proceeding to the next one, Posada would always wash her hands with hot water and anti-bacterial soap.

"As a massage therapist, I want to make sure that I observe hygiene and sanitation to protect my customers," said Posada.

Full of pride

Notwithstanding the fatigue, Posada takes pride in her work, having supported her five children's needs through her earnings.

"Actually, my eldest and third children have also demonstrated skills in massage therapy," she said.

To better serve their patrons, Posada noted that a massage therapist must be physically fit and possess certain qualities such as patience, endurance, and the "gift of touch."

But Posada said that her faith in God is, above all, what has helped her through the years.

"Every day, I would ask God to give me the strength to do my job right and to empower my hands to give my customer care and comfort. I would pray to Him and say, 'My life is in you, Lord.'"

Philippine Q2 economic growth slows to 3.4 percent

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine economy slowed in the second quarter as weakness in construction and industry offset growth in consumer spending amid a lackluster global recovery.

The government's statistical board said Wednesday that the economy grew 3.4 percent in the April-June quarter after expanding 4.9 percent in the first quarter. Growth over the first half of the year was 4 percent.

The statistical board says the European debt crisis and the fragile recovery of main trading partners the U.S. and Japan resulted in growth below its forecast of 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent.

The economy boomed last year, growing 8.9 percent.

Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga said the Philippines fared better than Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand and Singapore in the second quarter but lagged Indonesia and Malaysia.

Agriculture was a bright spot for the economy, he said, with its growth rising to 7.1 percent from 5.6 percent in the previous quarter because of good sugarcane, rice and corn harvests.

The economy's "prospects for the second half of 2011 are better than the first half's performance," Paderanga said. The boost will come from continued strong rice production, real estate construction in view of the bright prospects in the property market, expected increases in tourists, and growth in mining with the high metal prices in the world market, he said.

Risks to the outlook include continuing weak consumer spending in the U.S. and the sluggishness of the European countries that use the euro common currency.

To help spur growth for the remainder of the year, Paderanga said the government will accelerate infrastructure projects, diversify domestic and foreign trade, sustain domestic spending and keep inflation in check.

Poor Filipinos have 9-11 victim to thank for homes

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this photo taken Aug. 3, 2011 in Manila, Philippines, Felisa Morta, right, with her family pause outside their home in a village named after Marie Rose Abad who died during the Sept. 11 2001 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in New York City.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A street sign in Manila shows an American businesswoman and Sept. 11 victim smiling down on a community whose transformation would have warmed her heart: children frolicking on tidy brick alleys near brightly colored houses.

Unlike many victims of the 2001 attacks who are remembered mostly by their family and friends, Marie Rose Abad's legacy lives on halfway around the world in a once-notorious Manila slum now turned into an orderly village that carries her name.

Her Philippine-born American husband had the community of about 50 one-story houses built in her memory in 2004 as a tribute to their 26 years of marriage and her unfulfilled desire to help the poor in the Philippines.

"She's a hero around here," said Nancy Waminal, a 37-year-old mother of two.

The neighborhood used to be a shantytown rife with garbage, human waste and crime. But residents now see Marie Rose Abad Village as a bright spot spun out of the disaster thousand of miles away at Ground Zero.

"This used to be a dreaded area," said Waminal, who heads the village homeowners' association. "Now there is no more fighting, no more stabbings, no more drinking on the street."

The black-and-white image of Marie Rose is on the side of a framed, rectangular sign welcoming visitors to the community. Residents reverentially wipe the picture each day with cloth and refer to her as though she were family, though few know details of her life.

Before she became one of the nearly 2,800 killed in the unprecedented terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Abad was a senior executive at the New York-based investment bank Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. She was at the twin towers when the second plane slammed below her 89th-floor office.

In her final cellphone call that day to her Long Island home, then-49-year-old Abad urged husband Rudy Abad to pray before hanging up. Her husband froze a few minutes later as he watched her tower crumble on TV, ending what he called a fairytale marriage in an American dream.

A New York-born daughter from an Italian immigrant family, Marie Rose Abad had a soft spot for children and the underprivileged. The couple's encounter with the crushing poverty that afflicts nearly a third of the 94 million people in the Philippines came as a surprise during a 1989 visit.

It was the first time back home for Rudy Abad, who was from an affluent family, since he left Manila in 1963 to study in the United States, where he eventually acquired citizenship and married Marie Rose. He had told his wife that the Philippines was a paradise.

What they saw appalled them.

"I could not believe what I was seeing because right there from the airport I could see the squatters, the shanties and everything," he said during an interview at his home south of Manila. "We were looking at each other because my story to her was the Philippines is beautiful."

Abad

The childless couple were out jogging without cash near a cathedral one day when they were mobbed by street children aged 4 and 5 peddling lottery tickets. They were overcome with guilt that they couldn't help the kids.

"That was the first time she felt the pain," he said, recalling that Marie Rose asked him to take her to a bank, where she got about $12 worth of Philippine coins.

They returned to the church, where she announced to the kids' applause that she would buy all of their tickets.

Later, he said she told him: "I don't know when, where and how but some day, I'm going to come back and I'm going to do more than this."

Their romance included a weekly coffee ritual at the World Trade Center towers.

Every Monday, he would drive her to work and park in front of the skyscrapers while they chatted and enjoyed a thermos of their favorite brew. She would bid him good bye and when he returned home, almost like clockwork, "the email is there: 'Thanks for driving me to work,'" he said.

For the rest of the week, Abad would drive her to a nearby train station and then return home to prepare for his work as an stocks investment adviser, as he did on Sept. 11, 2001, a Tuesday.

On that morning, he was exercising in his basement when she called to tell him she was all right despite the plane crashing into the first of the towers. He switched on the TV and later watched in disbelief as the second plane smashed into her tower.

Her voice became frantic in succeeding calls as chaos engulfed her office. Then, the final call: "It's too hot, this might be the last time that I will talk to you," she said.

"I remembered her last words to me at the time was, 'Ru, pray, pray,'" he said.

"I said, 'Yup, OK' " and they hung up.

A few minutes later, he saw her tower collapse to the ground.

"Every time, if I think of that, I feel how all that concrete came down on her," he said, weeping.

She had survived the first terrorist attempt to topple the twin towers with a bomb in 1993. "I was there when she came down full of smoke on her face because they had walked down 110 stories," he said, adding that she was stunned and just wanted him to bring her home instead of taking her to the hospital.

Abad said he drifted aimlessly during the three years after her death, unable to work. He tried to find a new meaning in life. "I lost the other half of me so my half didn't know what to do," he said.

Then he met Philippine friends involved with the Gawad Kalinga charity, which seeks to transform slums across the country into decent, productive communities through volunteer work and donations.

Abad remembered his wife's promise to help the poor and decided to donate more than $60,000 for the construction of a village for destitute families in Manila's Tondo slum.

When construction began, Abad brought wealthy Filipino friends to the site to help lay bricks and paint the houses. A friend who owns Starbucks outlets brought tables, chairs and a glass showcase for a village cafe, where young students now hang out and study.

"It's the good side of 9/11," Gawad Kalinga volunteer Jun Valbuena said.

Abad, who has retired and now shuttles between homes in Las Vegas and Manila, has become an advocate of philantrophy, urging rich Filipinos to help the poor beyond giving alms.

He says Sept. 11 transformed him, teaching him about suffering.

"If the tragedy that happened to Marie did not happen ... I don't know that I would have been moved to do the same thing," he said.

"It was the tragedy that opened up your eyes, that makes you want to do something far and beyond."

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines recognizes Libyan opposition

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says it now recognizes the interim government created by opposition forces in Libya. The Department of Foreign Affairs says the Philippines recognizes the National Transition Council as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people during the period of transition and hopes it will lead the country to peace and stability. It also thanked the Libyan people on Tuesday for keeping Filipinos there safe throughout the conflict. The Philippines has been cautious about shifting its recognition to the rebels because of the presence of Filipino workers in Libya. About 14,000 Filipinos were evacuated from the country in March, shortly after the rebellion began in mid-February, but some 2,000 have remained there.

Philippine leader compares his love life to Coke

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The bachelor president of the Philippines is lamenting that his love life is like Coke—it's gone from regular to zero. Fifty-one-year-old President Benigno Aquino III poked fun at himself while addressing members of the Philippine community in Beijing during his state visit to China. Like a standup comedian, he opened up by broaching one of the most mundane questions people often ask him. Aquino said Wednesday: "Someone asked me, how is your love life? So I said, it's like Coca-Cola. ... Before, it was regular, then it became light, now it's zero." The audience then burst into laughter. Since taking office last year, Aquino has broken up with several women, often blaming journalists' prying eyes for ruining his romances.

Manila sends envoy to Syria to aid repatriation

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — An official says the Philippines is sending a diplomat to Syria to help repatriate Filipino workers affected by rising violence there. Foreign Affairs Department spokesman Raul Hernandez says Ricardo Endaya will be the new charge d'affaires in the Damascus embassy. Endaya is a former ambassador to Iraq who oversaw the evacuation of Filipino workers there. The migrant workers' group Migrante-Middle East welcomed Tuesday's announcement. It said the embassy has acted too slowly in repatriating Filipinos as Syrian forces crack down on protesters. Two weeks ago the Philippines raised its alert level in Syria and urged 17,000 Filipinos there to voluntarily return home. Hernandez says 420 have said they want to go home and 108 have received exit visas.

Samut'Sari

STRANDING EXPERTS CLARISSA V. DAVID

Regional marine mammal health and response manager T. David Schofield gestures as he discusses the preliminary findings on the necropsy conducted on KW2011-016, the whale that stranded on Micro Beach on Aug. 23, as Hawaii Pacific University assistant biology professor Kristi West looks on during a presentation at the American Memorial Park Friday last week. The two led the team that conducted the 13-hour necropsy Thursday last week on the whale—a Cuvier's beaked species.

NEW MONEY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan talks about the additional $1 million that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide for the Commonwealth's food stamp program in a press briefing Wednesday at his office in Susupe.

ARTS EXHIBIT CLARISSA V. DAVID

Traditional artist Priscilla J. Pangelinan's coconut flower shells were among the art works displayed at the Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit, which opened at the Hyatt Regecy Saipan Lobby Function Room on Sept. 1.

SWEARING IN

Century Insurance Corp. president and CEO Dave Sablan, left, swears in the new officers of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association on July 21, 2011, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. The new NMIA officers are, from left, Eli Buenaventura of Calvo Insurance, president; Pete Schilling of Associated Insurance, vice president; Gol Corpuz of Century Insurance, treasurer; Lisa Benavente of Moylans/First Net, secretary; and Cathy Tenorio of Moylans/Dong Bu, director.

Century Insurance Corp. president and CEO Dave Sablan gives a speech during the induction ceremony for the new officers of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association on July 21, 2011, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

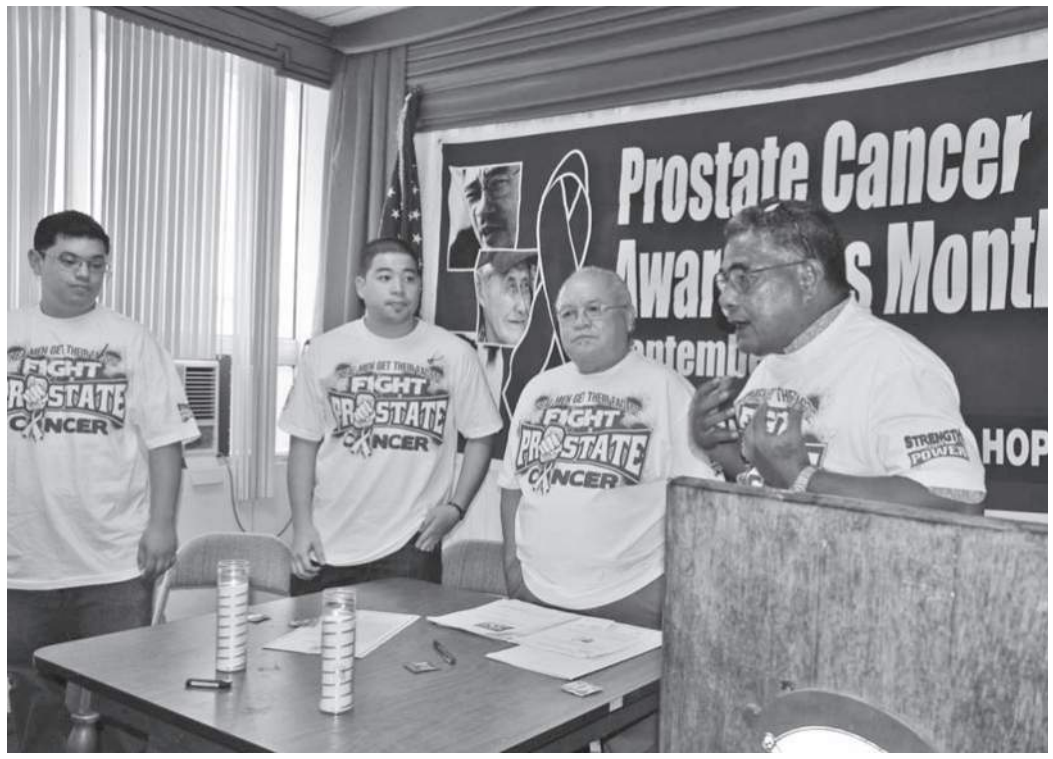
Gol Corpuz of Century Insurance acts as the moderator during the event.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The monthlong Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit, which opened on Sept. 1 and is organized by the Arts Council, features paintings, accessories, postcards, among others, from traditional and visual artists.

SESSION BREAK HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), center, confers with House clerk Linda Muña, left, and House counsel John Cool, right during a session break on Tuesday, when the lower chamber started deliberating on the fiscal year 2012 budget which they passed on Wednesday night.



IMPORTANCE OF SCREENING CLARISSA V. DAVID

Deputy secretary for public health administration John Tagabuel, right, gestures as he talks about the importance of getting screened for prostate cancer during the proclamation signing designating September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month held Aug. 31 at the Saipan Mayor's Office. Joining him in the photo are Mayor Donald G. Flores, Jose Santos of the Public Health Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and Jonathan Kiyoshi of NMC-CREES.

Business

After bumpy August, economy shows signs of growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—August began with rising fears that another recession was about to hit. That was then.

A month later, the economy and the stock market appear more resilient, suggesting that consumers, businesses and investors remain confident enough to keep spending.

A more authoritative test will come Friday, when the government issues the August jobs report. Employers are expected to have added 93,000 jobs, which would not be enough to significantly lower the jobless rate of 9.1 percent.

But it would solidify evidence that the economy, though still weak, is growing steadily. Many analysts now expect it to strengthen in the months ahead.

A stream of data released Thursday bolstered the case for an economy that's healthier than it seemed just weeks ago:

■ Americans kept shopping in August despite higher prices and a hurricane that battered the East Coast during the important back-to-school shopping season.

■ Car buyers lifted U.S. sales last month for most automakers. Analysts had expected a weaker August because of anxiety about the economy and Hurricane Irene, which forced many dealers to close during the month's final weekend.

■ Fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, a sign that the job market may be improving slightly.

■ Manufacturing managed to expand in August for the 25th straight month. Last month's growth, though modest, defied fears that manufacturing, one of the economy's few sources of strength, had contracted last month.

All that delivered a sense of relief that the economy is still expanding—even if it's not enough to reduce unemployment, raise wages and drive the housing market out of its depression.

"Today's releases add to the evidence that underlying economic conditions aren't half as bad as feared a few weeks ago," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

Early last month, some economists had warned that the economy might be sliding into a recession—that is, if it were not already in one. The economy had managed to plod ahead at an annual growth rate of just 0.7 percent for the first six months of the year. Growth that scant leaves an economy vulnerable to shocks.

And the shocks arrived. The worsening European debt crisis threatened U.S. banks. Politicians fought to the final hours over whether to raise the debt ceiling. Standard & Poor's downgraded long-term U.S. debt. A regional manufacturing index plunged.

Stocks tumbled in response. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 16 percent of its value from July 21 to Aug. 10. (The Dow has since regained about half that loss.)

While all that was happening, consumer confidence was plummeting to its lowest point since April 2009, when the economy was in the midst of the worst recession in 70 years.

Yet Thursday's economic news, coming on top of other encouraging data over the past two weeks on retail sales and consumer spending, helped ease many fears.

Target Corp., Macy's Inc., teen retailer Wet Seal Inc. and warehouse club operator Costco Wholesale Corp. all posted sales gains that beat Wall Street expectations. Luxury chains such as Nordstrom Inc. and Saks also fared well.

Some smaller retailers appear to be holding up well, too.

Lawrence Bock, owner of Dallas-area jewelry retailer Bachendorf's, said he had worried that his customers would pull back after the stock market dive.

They didn't. Sales for the four-store chain surged 18 percent from January through August.

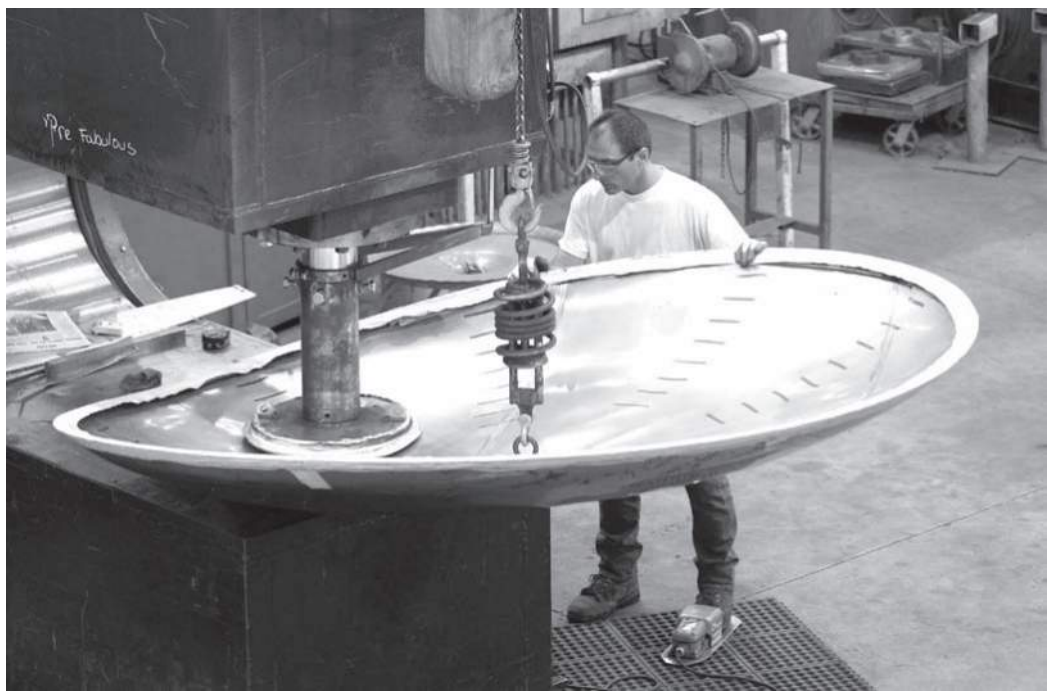
"For a few weeks, we were concerned. But we realized it wasn't 2008," Bock said, referring to the financial crisis and recession. "I'm feeling better."

Last week, the chain decided to hire four to six more people. That would bring the total to 92, though still about eight fewer than in 2007.

"We had become very lean," Bock said.

General Motors, Chrysler, Ford and Nissan all reported surprisingly strong sales Thursday. Toyota and Honda, by contrast, continue to be hurt by shortages stemming from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Many analysts now expect the economy to grow by about 2 percent in the current quarter, a tepid pace but far better than in the first half of this year.



AP

In this Aug. 30, 2011 photo, Larry Chappell uses a "C Press" machine to form a tank head at JV Northwest, in Canby, Ore. JV Northwest manufactures stainless steel vessels.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Carmakers report surprisingly strong August sales

Fears that car buyers would stay away from dealerships in August never materialized. Instead, Americans were lured by new models, cheaper financing and the need to replace aging cars. As a result, August sales rose 7.5 percent compared with the same month last year, according to Autodata Corp. Most major automakers reported healthy sales increases in August, led by Chrysler with a 31 percent jump. Toyota and Honda saw double-digit declines as they continued to struggle with earthquake-related car shortages. Results were better than expected. Some analysts thought that the volatile stock market and Hurricane Irene would hurt sales. While it was easy for carmakers to do better than last year, which was the worst August for the industry since a double-dip recession in 1983, the results were also a sign that sales could pick up speed after a disappointing summer of little or no growth. ***(AP)***

Retailers report solid gains for August

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans kept shopping in August despite a month of bad news. Besides old worries about the economy, shoppers had new troubles in August that could have kept them from heading to stores. They faced higher prices for food and clothes. Wild stock market swings fueled concerns about another recession. Then, Hurricane Irene hit in the middle of the important back-to-school shopping season. Despite those factors, revenue in August among 26 retailers was up 4.6 percent at stores open at least a year—a key industry measure—according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. The gain is in line with the 4 percent to 5 percent that analysts predicted at the beginning of the month.

Jobs report could show signs of modest growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—Businesses likely shrugged off recession fears and kept hiring in August, although not nearly enough to lower the unemployment rate.

Analysts forecast that the economy added 93,000 jobs last month, down from 117,000 in July. The unemployment rate is expected to stay at 9.1 percent, according to a survey by Factset.

The government's monthly jobs report will be released Friday.

The projected job totals for August are barely enough to keep up with population growth. The economy needs to add closer to 250,000 jobs per month to rapidly bring down the unemployment rate, which has been above 9 percent in all but two months since May 2009.

Weak growth, a downgrade of long-term U.S. debt and a sell-off on Wall Street likely kept some businesses from hiring.

And a strike at Verizon Communications Inc. last month is also expected to lower the job totals. As many as 45,000 Verizon employees were off the payrolls for about two weeks. Those employees are back at work.

Still, recent data show consumers and businesses weren't nearly as spooked by the summer shocks as some economists had feared.

Most retailers reported that sales grew last month. Target Corp., Macy's Inc., teen retailer Wet Seal Inc. and warehouse club operator Costco Wholesale Corp. all posted sales gains that beat Wall Street expectations. Luxury chains such as Nordstrom Inc. and Saks also fared well.

And car buyers lifted U.S. sales last month. Analysts had expected a weaker August because of anxiety about the economy and Hurricane Irene, which forced many dealers to close during the month's final weekend.

The manufacturing sector managed to expand in August for the 25th straight month. Last month's growth, though modest, defied fears that manufacturing, one of the economy's few sources of strength, had contracted last month.

Meanwhile, fewer people applied for unemployment benefits last week, a sign that layoffs have eased a bit.

All that delivered a sense of relief that the economy is still expanding—even if it's not enough to reduce the unemployment rate, raise wages and drive the housing market out of its depression.

The economy expanded at an annual pace of only 0.7 percent in the first six months of the year. That was the slowest six months of growth since the recession officially ended in June 2009.

Employers added an average of 72,000 jobs from May through July, down from an average of 215,000 per month in the previous three months.

Most economists forecast that growth may improve to about a 2 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter. But that's not fast enough to generate many jobs.

The economy's weakness was underscored Thursday by the Obama administration, which estimated that unemployment will average about 9 percent next year, when President Barack Obama will run for re-election. The rate was 7.8 percent when Obama took office.

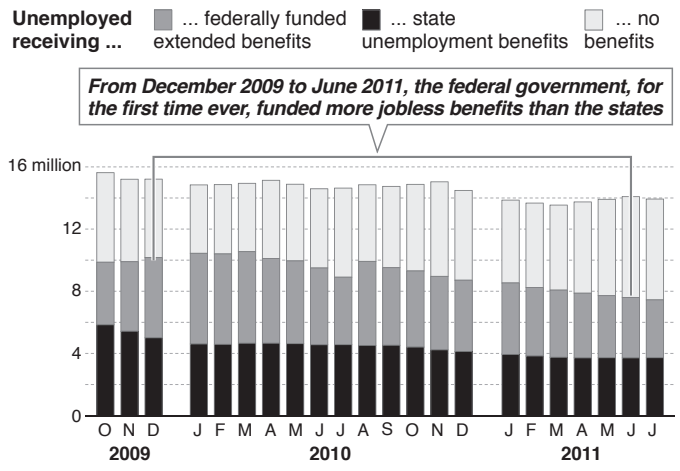
The White House Office of Management and Budget projects overall growth of only 1.7 percent this year.

Next week, Obama will deliver a rare address to a joint session of Congress to introduce a plan for creating jobs and boosting economic growth.

Maxing out jobless benefits

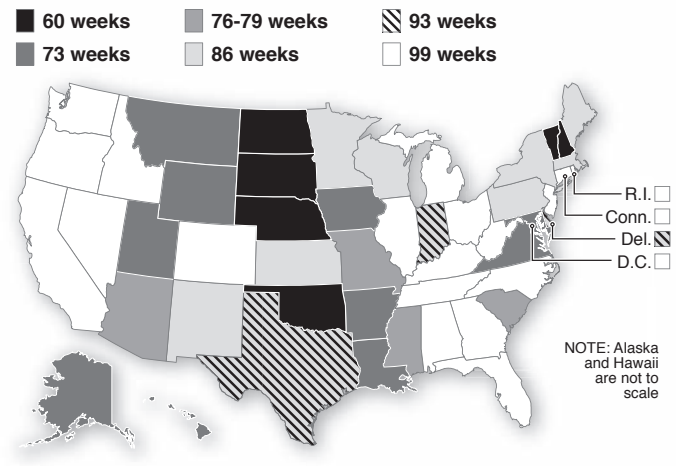
More than 8 million Americans lost jobs in the Great Recession, prompting the federal government to extend jobless benefits, pushing the maximum duration of state and federal unemployment insurance to 99 weeks.

Federal funds pay larger share


Unemployed receiving ...
... federally funded extended benefits
... state unemployment benefits
... no benefits
From December 2009 to June 2011, the federal government, for the first time ever, funded more jobless benefits than the states
16 million
12
8
4
0
O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J
2009
2010
2011

How unemployment insurance varies

The maximum duration of unemployment insurance by state:



Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Department of Labor data presented in monthly averages by Wayne Vroman, Urban Institute
Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell

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Nation

Finally, World Trade Center rises from ground zero

By KAREN MATTHEWS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Ten years after the 9/11 attacks destroyed the World Trade Center, an 80-story glass and steel tower is rising like a phoenix from the ashes of ground zero.

The site called a "hole in the ground" for years has cranes in the air, trains running underground and hundreds of trees planted around giant, man-made waterfalls to remember the dead of Sept. 11.

And the surrounding neighborhood—no longer just a financial district—is bursting with young families, new schools, a Whole Foods and a Barnes & Noble.

Tourists squint and point their cellphones at 1 World Trade Center, once known as the Freedom Tower.

"I'm kind of proud because I was here two weeks after 9/11 and this was a dust pit," said Larry Brancato, 59, of Wallingford, Conn, walking by ground zero. "It just shows that Americans have always had a can-do attitude."

After years of inertia, and prolonged disputes between government agencies, insurer and a developer who had just taken out a 99-year lease on the towers when they were toppled, the development of the trade center is substantial, and the tallest tower can now be seen for miles.

"People can begin to see that this is no longer a hole in the middle of New York, but a real place is emerging," said architect Daniel Libeskind, whose master plan serves as a blueprint for the site.

A memorial featuring waterfalls cascading into the footprints of the twin towers will open to the public on Sept. 12, a day after families see their loved ones' names around the pools for the first time. The skyscraper formerly known as the Freedom Tower is growing by a story a week and now stands 1,000 feet above the skyline as the tallest building in lower Manhattan. A transit station and a second office tower also are taking shape.

As the trade center lay in smoking ruins in 2001, New Yorkers debated the future of the 16-acre superblock that the twin towers had dominated. Some wanted to rebuild the two 110-story skyscrapers exactly as they had been. Others said that out of respect for the nearly 3,000 dead, the entire tract should be a memorial or a park.

AP

In this July 27, 2011 aerial file photo, construction continues at the World Trade Center in New York. One World Trade Center, left, rises above the lower Manhattan skyline followed by Four World Trade Center, lower right, with the square outlines of the almost-completed September 11 Memorial at lower center.

Larry Silverstein, the developer who signed a lease on the twin towers on July 24, 2001, pushed to rebuild the 10 million square feet of office space he had lost. Civic groups pushed for a more neighborhood-friendly design than two monoliths on a concrete plaza.

Libeskind, who won a competition to become the site's master planner, focused on the Freedom Tower, with an asymmetrical spire soared to the symbolic height of 1,776 feet and echoed the Statue of Liberty across the harbor. He set aside half the site for a memorial that left empty the spots where the destroyed towers stood, and set space aside for a performing arts center to merge culture and commerce.

Tensions were inevitable between Libeskind's artistic vision and Silverstein's desire for buildings that would draw tenants.

Now, Libeskind said, "the tensions are gone."

1 World Trade hardly resembles Libeskind's early drawings, but he called it "an impressive building."

Designed by David Childs, its tapering form is symmetrical but retains the spire and the 1,776 feet. To guard against truck bombs, the bottom 20 floors will be windowless, reinforced concrete covered by glass. The base will house infrastructure like generators and air-conditioning systems.

Critics warned that 1 World Trade would be hard to fill. Who would work in a symbolically loaded building at a location that terrorists had attacked twice? Former Gov. Eliot Spitzer once called the Freedom Tower a white elephant.

It's looking less like that now that Conde Nast has signed a lease to move its trendsetting magazines like Vogue, Glamour and Vanity Fair to 1 World Trade when the building opens in 2014.

Christopher Ward, the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site, called the Conde Nast agreement "a phenomenal game changer."

"The Conde Nast deal has really jump-started interest downtown," Ward said.

Under a deal between Silverstein and the Port Authority, the authority is building 1 World Trade Center on the northwest corner of the site; Silverstein wants to build three office towers on the east side of the 16 acres. The first of Silverstein's buildings, known as 4 World Trade, was up to 48 floors this week. Silverstein says the 947-foot tower designed by Japan's Fumihiko Maki will be finished before the taller 1 World Trade, catty-cornered across the site.

The Port Authority, which lost its headquarters and 85 employees on Sept. 11, will move into the second tower rising at the site when it is complete. Silverstein says other "household name" tenants will follow.

With the economy nosediving and Silverstein and the Port Authority battling over who should finance two unbuilt towers—designed by architects Richard Rogers and Lord Norman Foster—the future of those buildings looked doubtful a couple of years ago.

An analysis prepared for the Port Authority in 2009 projected that there might be no market for a third tower at the site until 2030, much less the original five planned.

After Irene: When will the power come back on?

WARWICK, R.I. (AP)—Cold showers. Meals in the dark. Refrigerators full of spoiled food. No TV. No Internet. Up and down the East Coast, patience is wearing thin among the hundreds of thousands of people still waiting for the electricity to come back on after Hurricane Irene knocked out the power last weekend.

"It's like `Little House on the Prairie' times," said Debbie McWeeney, who went to a Red Cross shelter in Warwick to pick up food and water after everything in her refrigerator went bad. "Except I'm not enjoying it at all."

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House told Congress on Thursday there's a need for more than $5 billion in additional disaster relief money, not even counting the billions that probably will be called for to help East Coast states hit by Hurricane Irene.

The administration also says that under the terms of last month's budget deal, Congress can provide more than $11 billion in disaster aid next year without finding offsetting budget cuts as demanded by some Republicans. The budget pact contains a little-noticed provision providing the flexibility in disaster spending.

Many lawmakers were unaware of the disaster aid provision when voting for the budget pact last month. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor has said additional disaster funding should be paid for by cutting spending elsewhere in the budget

■■■

With the waters receding across much of the flood-stricken region, homeowners are mucking out their basements and dragging soggy furniture to the curb. But the wait for power drags on, with an estimated 895,000 homes and businesses still without electricity, down from a peak of 9.6 million.

And criticism of the utility companies is mounting. In Rhode Island, a state senator is calling for an investigation, and Massachusetts' attorney general is demanding information from utilities on how they are dealing with the crisis, including how many crews are in the field and their response time.

The industry has defended its efforts, noting it warned the public that a storm like Irene was bound to cause prolonged outages and pointing out that flooding and toppled trees caused severe damage to utility poles, substations and other equipment.

Tim Horan, National Grid president for Rhode Island, said crews from as far as Kansas and Idaho are working 16-hour shifts, and "we're committed to getting this resolved as soon as possible."

In the meantime, people are taking cold showers or washing up at shelters, using camp stoves and grills to cook, competing for ice at the grocery store and relying on generators and hand-cranked radios. The late-summer weather, at least, has been mercifully cool across much of the East Coast.

Many homes that depend on wells have no water because they have no electricity to pump it. Relief agencies have been handing out drinking water. And a high school in Exeter, R.I., opened its gym to let people shower.

In some places, people on oxygen or other medical devices that require electricity have been taken to shelters that have power.

Irene has been blamed for at least 46 deaths in 13 states. With the streets drying out in hard-hit New Jersey, some towns faced new problems, namely trash bins overflowing with waterlogged debris. In Vermont, with roads slowly reopening, the National Guard's airlift of food, water and other supplies to once cutoff towns was winding down.

But Vermont faced new danger Thursday evening: A flash flood warning was issued for the Rutland area after 2 to 5 inches of rain fell. Two highway workers repairing a damaged bridge were stranded on a sandbar in a river after flash flooding hit in the town of Clarendon, and they were rescued by helicopters.

The White House declared a major disaster in Vermont, clearing the way for federal aid for repairs. The declaration, signed by President Barack Obama, makes individual assistance available for homeowners in Chittenden, Rutland, Washington and Windsor counties and public assistance available for infrastructure in 13 of the state's 14 counties, excluding Grand Isle.

ACROSS THE NATION

Virginia city weighs Confederate flag-flying limit

LEXINGTON, Va. (AP)—About 100 people rallied Thursday evening in opposition to a proposal to limit the flying of the Confederate flag in the rural Virginia city where Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson are buried. The Sons of Confederate Veterans organized the "Save our Flags" gathering before the city, which was considering an ordinance to limit flags on downtown poles to just those of the United States, Virginia and the city of Lexington. The proposal has angered defenders of the divisive Southern symbol. It would not limit the flag's display elsewhere. "I am a firm believer in the freedom to express our individual rights, which include flying the flag that we decide to fly," said Philip Way, a Civil War re-enactor who turned out for the late-summer rally clad in a Confederate wool uniform. "That's freedom to me."

Philadelphia woman fatally mauled by pit bulls

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Authorities say a Philadelphia woman found dead in her home had been fatally mauled by her own dogs. Autopsy results were released Thursday on 50-year-old Carmen Ramos. She and her husband shared their north Philadelphia house with five pit bulls. Police say Ramos' husband found her dead when he returned home from work Tuesday. Ramos had severe injuries to her head, face and body. Police conducted a homicide investigation, but the medical examiner's office ruled her death an accident.

Calif professor wanted for leading gang, drug ring

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—A college professor is wanted by Southern California authorities on suspicion of leading a motorcycle gang and distributing methamphetamine to a network of drug dealers. A fugitive arrest warrant for 43-year-old Steve Kinzey was announced on Thursday. Kinzey teaches physical fitness at California State University, San Bernardino. Sheriff's spokeswoman Jodi Miller says Kinzey was the target of a narcotics and weapons trafficking investigation. During a raid at his Highland home last week, investigators seized meth and firearms and evidence of his involvement with the Devils Diciples motorcycle gang.

Asia

Japan's new PM picks allies for key Cabinet spots

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda picked close allies Friday for key positions in his Cabinet as he tries to steer his troubled nation through disaster recovery, a nuclear crisis and a lengthy economic slump.

Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura announced the picks, including Koichiro Gemba, 47, as foreign minister and Jun Azumi, a 49-year-old former journalist, taking over the finance portfolio. Both are relatively young in a Japanese political world previously dominated by elder statesmen, and both are closely allied with Noda.

Yoshio Hachiro, 63, was selected minister of trade and economy.

"They will work like loaches mired in mud and sweating to get the job done," Fujimura said when announcing the lineup at the prime minister's residence. Loaches, a type of bottom-feeding, eel-like fish, have become a bit of an odd buzzword after Noda described himself as one in what has largely been interpreted as a self-deprecating remark.

Noda, a surprise choice for prime minister, brought along some fresh faces to the Cabinet.

Like Noda, Gemba studied politics in a well-known school created by Panasonic Corp. founder Konosuke Matsushita, who wanted to reform Japanese politics to become more democratic. Azumi previously worked for public broadcaster NHK.

Noda retained Goshi Hosono as the minister in charge of dealing with the nuclear crisis in Fukushima prefecture, in northeastern Japan.

He also kept Michihiko Kano, who ran against him for the party leadership and is considered well connected with veteran legislators, as agriculture minister.

Noda's full Cabinet was to be officially appointed by the emperor Friday afternoon.

In a nod to his key rival and party powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa, Noda appointed lawmakers close to Ozawa as the defense minister and the chairman of the National Public Safety Commission.

Ozawa still has significant clout in the ruling Democratic Party and backed another candidate for the leadership post, former trade minister Banri Kaieda, who was defeated by Noda in an intraparty election.

AP

Japan's Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura announces the lineup of Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's cabinet at prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Japan, Friday, Sept. 2, 2011.

Earlier in the week, Noda tapped Ozawa ally Azuma Koshiishi to be secretary-general of the Democratic Party, the No. 2 party spot.

People had been watching to see how Noda, Japan's sixth prime minister in five years, would woo Ozawa's faction amid deep divisions within the party. Kaieda garnered 177 legislator votes to Noda's 215 in the party vote earlier this week.

Robert Dujarric, professor of Contemporary Asian Studies at Temple University in Tokyo, said the Democrats were still "learning on the job" after wresting power in 2009, displacing a conservative party that had ruled Japan almost continuously for half a century.

"Clearly, Japan needs a Cabinet that is capable of making good policy decisions and implementing it, " he said.

"But for several years, one could even say 20 years, Japan has been semi-paralyzed. Therefore, the voters have gotten used to this paralysis and expect very little from the prime minister and the Cabinet."

Japan's revolving door

Yoshihiko Noda, Japan's finance minister, later this week becomes the nation's eighth prime minister in 10 years. (Chart shows time in office.)

2000 **Yoshiro Mori**
April 5, 2000-April 26, 2001

2001 **Junichiro Koizumi**
April 26, 2001-
Sept. 26, 2006

2006 **Shinzo Abe**
Sept. 26, 2006-Sept. 26, 2007

2007 **Yasuo Fukuda**
Sept. 26, 2007-Sept. 24, 2008

2008 **Taro Aso**
Sept. 24, 2008-Sept. 16, 2009

2009 **Yukio Hatoyama**
Sept. 16, 2009-June 8, 2010

2010 **Naoto Kan**
June 8, 2010-present

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Source: Prime Minister of Japan's office
Graphic: Pat Carr

ASIA BRIEFS

India says ship near Vietnam was harassed by China

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian officials say a naval vessel on a trip to Vietnam has been harassed by China for allegedly violating its waters. India's foreign ministry said Thursday the INS Airavat was sailing about 45 nautical miles off the coast of Vietnam on July 22 when a caller identifying himself as the Chinese navy made radio contact and told the Indian vessel: "You are entering Chinese waters." The foreign ministry said no ship or aircraft were visible and that the Airavat continued its journey. China has grown more assertive—and at times aggressive—in pressing its claims to much of the South China Sea, aided by a build-up of its navy. Chinese ships have rousted fishing vessels from Vietnam and the Philippines, both of which contest China's claims.

Indian anti-graft crusader wanted for other causes

NEW DELHI (AP)—Fresh from a 12-day hunger strike that roiled public ire against graft, Indian anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare is in hot demand to promote other causes as activists seek to harness his acclaim and ability to seize 24-hour media attention. The 74-year-old former army truck driver returned Thursday to a hero's welcome in his village outside Mumbai, after a New Delhi hospital said his health was good following his fast to demand creation of a powerful anti-corruption watchdog. The hunger strike—inspired by national freedom fighter Mohandas K. Gandhi—drew tens of thousands of adoring supporters and was praised for forcing a seemingly remote Parliament into confronting official graft.

Gunmen attack minibus in Pakistan, kill 7 Shiites

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen killed seven Shiite Muslims in an attack on a minibus in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, while two people died in a suicide car bomb attack on a police station. Sunni extremists of one stripe or another will be suspected in both attacks, which were not linked. Allied to al-Qaida and the Taliban, the militants frequently target Shiites, whom they regard as non-Muslims, as well as Pakistan's pro-Western government.

World War II bomb kills 7 people in west Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An official says seven people were killed when a World War II bomb they found in a river exploded in western Myanmar. A security official told The Associated Press on Thursday that the dead included two children. He asked not be identified because he did not have clearance to speak to the media. The seven found the bomb floating in a river in Rakhine state Wednesday and it exploded when they retrieved it from the water.

Hong Kong worries about China's tightening grip

HONG KONG (AP)—A visit by a senior Chinese leader meant to spread goodwill has instead left Hong Kong fuming over the smothering security that locals fear was aimed at muffling the media and protesters.

In the two weeks since the visit, journalists have taken to the street in protest. Professors have taken out newspaper ads and students demanded the police chief resign. Police and local leaders have been raked over in the legislature.

The uproar is the latest clash of cultures between the controlling, authoritarian government in Beijing and Hong Kong, the financial center and former British colony returned to China's control but allowed to keep its capitalism, civil liberties and Western-style legal system.

"People are very concerned that their freedoms are being undermined. The whole city is angry," pro-democracy legislator Emily Lau said at a heated special meeting of the Legislative Council's security panel this week.

Sparking the outrage were the security arrangements put on for Vice Premier Li Keqiang, a rising star in the Chinese leadership. Hong Kong's vigorous press complained they were kept far away from Li during the few events they were allowed to cover and had to compile their reports from government handouts. A few protesters who dared to get close say they were treated roughly by police officers.

While such tactics are standard procedure in mainland China, Chinese leaders are usually more careful not to alienate freewheeling Hong Kong. Li's visit was intended to bolster his image—he's expected to become premier in 2013 or sooner—and to show the government's concern for Hong Kong. He announced measures to give Hong Kong companies better access to the mainland market and promote the territory as a trading center for Chinese yuan.

But the heavy-handed security has served to heighten concern in Hong Kong that its autonomy is being eroded by a mainland government that does not value the territory's more freewheeling ways.

"I can understand why people feel unhappy or even angry with the way some of the situations were handled," Jasper Tsang, a pro-Beijing legislator and president of the Legislative Council, said on a television talk show Sunday. "I would say this storm you refer to once again tells us that there's still a difference between the values held by Hong Kong people and the conceptions, the beliefs of our central government."

The stark differences have been on view in recent months before the security fracas. Proposals unveiled by education officials in May to introduce patriotic education to "build national identity and develop the pride of being Chinese" have triggered criticisms about brainwashing. When China's top official for Hong Kong affairs publicly criticized local civil servants for failing to think long term, many people saw it as meddling.

Hong Kongers have seen freedoms of speech and the press as particularly vulnerable indicators in the 14 years since Beijing resumed control and pledged to use a hands-off approach in governing Hong Kong under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems."

Sri Lanka imposes new laws to hold terror suspects

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka will still detain hundreds of terror suspects and outlaw the defeated rebel Tamil Tiger group despite lifting wartime emergency laws, an official said Thursday.

An ethnic Tamil lawmaker condemned the moves as undemocratic and said the anti-terrorism law the government is expanding is too restrictive and should be abolished.

The emergency laws that have curbed civil and political liberties for most of the past 30 years lapsed Tuesday after the government did not renew them. President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the laws were no longer needed, more than two years after Sri Lanka's deadly civil war ended and under international pressue to lift the emergency.

But Rajapaksa approved four regulations under the powerful Prevention of Terrorism Act that became effective Tuesday on a temporary basis, Attorney General Mohan Peiris said. The government will bring them to lawmakers to make them permanent law.

The first two regulations will continue to ban the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group and the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization, which received donor funds to rehabilitate rebel-controlled areas and was accused of financing the rebels.

The other two regulations will allow the government to continue to hold rebel suspects and rehabilitate the rebels who have surrendered, he said.

Peiris did not say how long the suspects in custody will be detained. Tamil lawmakers say there are about 900 such detainees.

The government is also holding about 3,000 ex-rebels in military-run rehabilitation centers. About 11,000 Tamil rebels surrendered at the end of the war and nearly 8,000 have been freed after rehabilitation, the military says.

Suresh Premachandran, an ethnic Tamil lawmaker with the Tamil National Alliance, condemned the government move as undemocratic.

"On one hand, they abolished the emergency laws to satisfy the international community, while on the other hand, they bring in new regulations to the PTA, which itself is a draconian law. We oppose this move. We have always been calling to abolish the PTA, too."

"What's the use of abolishing emergency laws if they include same tough laws in the PTA. This will not help to strengthen democracy at all," he said, adding that they will oppose the new bill in Parliament.

World

Gadhafi, in hiding, vows no surrender in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—In a fiery broadcast from hiding, Moammar Gadhafi warned Thursday that loyalist tribes in his main strongholds were armed and preparing for battle, a show of defiance hours after rebels extended a deadline for the surrender of the fugitive leader's hometown.

The rebels, who have been moving troops toward remaining Gadhafi bastions across Libya, had shifted the deadline for the town of Sirte in hopes of avoiding the bloodshed that met their attack on Tripoli.

"We want to save our fighters and not lose a single one in battles with Gadhafi's forces," said Mohammed al-Rajali, a spokesman for the rebel leadership in the eastern city of Benghazi. "In the end, we will get Sirte, even if we have to cut water and electricity" and let NATO pound it with airstrikes.

■ ■ ■

PARIS (AP)—World community, meet Libya's new leaders. That was the message of an international conference in Paris on Thursday that was short on substance but full of symbolism.

Leaders and envoys from 60 nations and world bodies such as the United Nations met for talks with Libya's rebel-led National Transitional Council to map the country's future after Moammar Gadhafi's ouster. They vowed to free up billions of dollars in frozen assets and offered to help Libya rebuild, while stressing that it is the Libyan people themselves who must lead the way.

World leaders cautioned that while Gadhafi is still at large, the work of war is not yet done—and the tough slog of nation-building looms after the six-month, NATO-backed rebellion can be formally termed a revolution.

"We cannot afford a failed pariah state on Europe's borders," said British Prime Minister David Cameron, who hosted the conference with French President Nicolas Sarkozy. "We will all lose if the Arab Spring gives way to a cynical winter of repression."

■ ■ ■

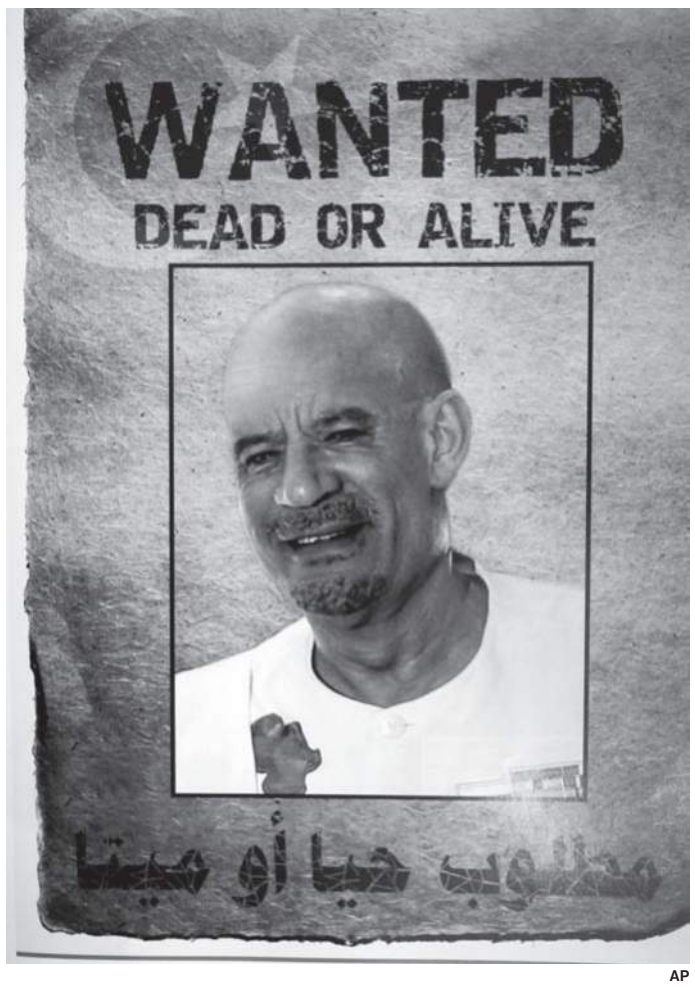
World leaders meeting in Paris on Libya's future after Gadhafi said the NATO military operations would continue as long as needed. The rebels say the advance on Sirte is going well, and that their forces have already captured one nearby city. They also say they are closing in on Gadhafi, who came to power 42 years ago Thursday in a military coup that toppled King Idris.

The rebels have been hunting for Gadhafi since he was forced into hiding after they swept into Tripoli on Aug. 20 and gained control of most of the capital after days of fierce fighting.

"We won't surrender again; we are not women. We will keep fighting," Gadhafi said in a blustery tone in the audio statement, broadcast by Syrian-based Al-Rai TV. His voice was recognizable, and Al-Rai has previously broadcast statements by Gadhafi and his sons.

Gadhafi said the tribes in Sirte and Bani Walid are armed and "there is no way they will submit." He called for continued resistance, warning "the battle will be long and let Libya burn."

In a second late-night audio also broadcast on the Syrian channel, Gadhafi spoke in more measured tones and called for a long insurgency.



AP

A manipulated photo of Libyan "Wanted Dead or Alive" Moammar Gadhafi from a copy of a free newspaper in Tripoli, Libya, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011.

"We will fight them everywhere," he said. "We will burn the ground under their feet."

He said NATO was trying to occupy Libya and steal its oil.

"Get ready to fight the occupation. ... Get ready for a long war, imposed on us," Gadhafi added. "Get ready for the guerrilla war."

He called Sirte "the capital of the resistance."

The rebels, who have effectively ended Gadhafi's rule, dismiss his threats as empty rhetoric.

The rebels believe he may be in one of their three key targets. The fighters, backed by NATO airstrikes, have been pushing recently toward Sirte as well as Bani Walid, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, and the southern city of Sabha.

All three were given a Saturday deadline to surrender. While the deadline extension was officially only for Sirte, rebels said it would also apply to Bani Walid and Sabha.

Pro-Gadhafi forces control most of Sabha and large numbers of soldiers—including mercenaries from other African countries—are camped on its outskirts, said Abdul Awidat, a Sabha resident currently in Tripoli.

Awidat told The Associated Press that he has spoken by satellite phone with people in the southern area in the past two days who said pro-Gadhafi forces have taken up positions in buildings and are recruiting young men as fighters and handing out weapons.

"There is no information that Gadhafi or any of his senior leadership are in Sabha," he added.

Some anti-government protesters have taken over a small part of the town of Gorda, and there has been fighting in the area with several people killed, Awidat said.

He said there is no electricity, running water or regular telephone service, and medicine is running out.

In a boost to the rebel cause, the last prime minister under Gadhafi said he now supports the opposition.

Al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi told Al-Arabiya television that had had been in contact with the rebels "and we notified them that we are with the people and we are ready to serve our country in the future."

Meanwhile, Ahmed Said, an adviser to the interior minister in the rebels' interim government, said Gadhafi's foreign minister had been captured. He did not identify him by name, but "can confirm that he is in custody." A week ago, Foreign Minister Abdul Ati al-Obeidi told British broadcaster Channel 4 that Gadhafi's rule was over.

Algeria, which gave refuge to Gadhafi's wife and three of his children this week, has indicated it will not do the same for the longtime dictator.

The Algerian newspaper El Watan reported Gadhafi had also sought sanctuary in Algeria, but the president refused to take his phone calls. Asked Thursday if Gadhafi could be given asylum, Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci said: "I don't believe so."

In Paris, world leaders and top-level diplomats from 60 nations lined up behind the new government and focused on unfreezing billions in Libyan funds held abroad.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said NATO will continue operations for as long as necessary to protect civilians in the North African country. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the Security Council to decide quickly on deploying a civilian mission to stabilize Libya.

"We cannot afford a failed pariah state on Europe's borders," Cameron said. "We will all lose if the Arab Spring gives way to a cynical winter of repression."

Rebel leader Mustafa Abdul Jalil said Libya's new government must ensure "that we fulfill our side of the deal—we must have security in Libya, tolerance and forgiveness must be promoted, the state of law must be respected."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she was encouraged by the response she got in her meetings with Libyan opposition leaders.

"They still have a huge hill to climb," she said. "But they are working with the international community to secure both chemical weapons stockpiles as well as conventional weapons. They are taking action against extremism wherever the find it."

US marks first month with no troop deaths in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—August marked the first month since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that no American forces have died, according to an Associated Press tally.

Figures compiled by the AP show that no American forces died in Iraq in August either in combat or non-combat related situations, a significant achievement in a conflict that has claimed the lives of 4,474 American service members since it began.

All American forces are supposed to leave Iraq by December of this year, but U.S. and Iraqi officials have been discussing whether to have a long-term American military presence in the country. There have been previous months during which there were no combat related deaths, but during which some people died in non-combat related situations.

The numbers come on top of what had been a jump in U.S. troop deaths for the first part of this year. In June, 15 U.S. troops died in one of the biggest losses of life for American forces in Iraq in years.

All but one of those deaths were combat related, and most came in southern Iraq, indicating the increased activity of Shiite militias in launching attacks against American forces.

Bases across southern Iraq have seen a deadly jump in rocket and mortar attacks, including the use of IRAMs, or improvised rocket assisted mortars, which are deadly short-range munitions that can be launched from the back of a truck. American forces traveling on roads around the country have encountered an increased number of armor-piercing explosives known as EFPs, or explosively formed penetrators.

Shiite militias operating throughout southern Iraq and the Baghdad area are trying to portray themselves as driving out the Americans from the country and keeping them from trying to negotiate a long-term American troop presence here.

This summer, American and Iraqi forces operating in southern Iraq have been increasing operations against Shiite militias in an attempt to disrupt weapons smuggling from Iran, which could account for some of the drop in U.S. troop deaths.

In Maysan province, the Iraqi government has also replaced the Iraqi army and Iraqi police commanders. U.S. military officials in the province have praised both the new Iraqi army general and police commander as being more aggressive about trying to disrupt the weapons smuggling.

Maysan province borders Iran and the marshlands that straddle the border are often used by weapons smugglers who cross into Iraq from Iran and then fan out across the country.

While U.S. troop deaths have dropped, Iraq still remains a dangerous place.

WORLD BRIEFS

Britain, US call for tougher stance on Syria

PARIS (AP)—The U.S. and Britain called for a tougher stance over Syria's bloody crackdown on protesters Thursday, demanding tough new international sanctions on President Bashar Assad and his regime. In a round of talks on the sidelines of a Paris summit on Libya, the U.S., Britain and France discussed plans to escalate international action aimed at halting violence which the United Nations estimates has seen 2,200 people killed since mid-March. "President Assad's brutality against unarmed citizens has outraged the region, the world and most importantly the Syrian people themselves," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told reporters in Paris.

Greek police recover stolen Rubens painting

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek police recovered a 17th century painting by Flemish master Pieter Paul Rubens stolen from a museum in Belgium a decade ago, authorities said Thursday. Two people, both Greeks, were arrested in the operation, he said. Neither the police nor the Culture Ministry would give further information on the raid, the painting or which Belgian museum it was stolen from, saying investigations were still ongoing into the case. The artwork, dating from 1618 and stolen in 2001, was "a particularly important painting," the ministry said. The artwork had been examined by experts from the ministry and determined to be genuine and "of priceless value," Greek police spokesman Panagiotis Papapetropoulos said.

UK arrests 2 suspected computer hackers

LONDON (AP)—British police on Thursday arrested two men as part of a trans-Atlantic investigation into attacks carried out by the hacking groups Anonymous and Lulz Security. Scotland Yard said a 24-year-old and a 20-year-old were arrested at two separate U.K. addresses as part of a continuing investigation in collaboration with the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies. "The arrests relate to our enquiries into a series of serious computer intrusions and online denial-of-service attacks recently suffered by a number of multinational companies, public institutions and government and law enforcement agencies in Great Britain and the United States," said Detective Inspector Mark Raymond from the Metropolitan Police's Central e-Crime Unit.

Young Style

AIR HOGS:

Inexpensive, remote-control toy airplanes provide hours of fun, and adventure

MCT

The Air Hogs plane line comes in an arsenal of other models ranging in price from around $13 for a basic foam glider to around $80 for a sweet, remote-control combination airplane/helicopter.

By MICHAEL DEEDS
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

BOISE—The realization did not occur the time I was chucking croquet balls straight up into a sycamore tree, then running for my life each time gravity returned one toward my skull.

It didn't happen when I showed up at my neighbor's door carrying a ladder, asking if I could climb onto his roof.

But eventually, the fact that I might have a problem did dawn on me: With about 2 seconds to spare, I had just yanked my arm back over a stranger's chain-link fence with two large, viciously barking Cujos hurling themselves at me.

Hello, my name is Mike. I'm addicted to remote-control toy airplanes known as Air Hogs. And I will stop at nothing to retrieve them after they crash.

You would, too—assuming you were aware of these pint-sized wonders.

Tragically, millions of fathers and children are oblivious to the fact you can buy a controllable, practically indestructible little foam airplane for less than the price of a trip to Chuck E. Cheese.

This problem must be resolved. The Air Hogs Aero Ace, which inspired a near-cult following online, is arguably the best $30 I've ever spent. (Except that I've owned four of them.) Sadly, it's been discontinued.

But the Air Hogs plane line—which you'll find in stores like Toys R Us, Target and Walmart—comes in an arsenal of other models ranging in price from around $13 for a basic foam glider to around $80 for a sweet, remote-control combination airplane/helicopter.

There are two current inexpensive Air Hogs that will make little boys feel like pilots and men feel like little boys: the Jet Set ($29.99, ages 8-10 and up) and the A-10 Warthog ($39.99, same age range.) These toys aren't quite like "real" remote-control airplanes—the ones true hobbyists spend hundreds of bucks on and fly in massive areas. For one thing, these are slower. (Though not as slow as the Aero Ace, which means they need a little more space to fly.)

You just need a good-sized open area, like a large yard, a park, or even a gymnasium. And if you do run into a house, a tree or the back of your wife's head, it's rare that serious damage will be sustained on either end. If so, tape is your friend. My 1-year-old son took a bite out of a Jet Set with little impact on flight. I've also shot an Aero Ace out of a tree with a pellet gun. (Still flies great!) Of two Jet Sets I've tried, one mysteriously nose-dived like a dying seagull. This is the down side of cheap-but-awesome toy planes.

MCT

Air Hog's A-10 Warthog costs only $39.99.

Occasionally, you get a dud. Just return it. But it pays to be patient. If you're interested in basic aerodynamics, try tweaking the plane. Sometimes something as simple as taping a dime to an Air Hogs' nose can drastically improve flight characteristics.

The second Jet Set I flew had a lot in common with my beloved old Aero Aces.

There was the whining, gnat-like buzz of the twin propellers. The controller's directional stick, throttle and trim adjustment to fine-tune steering. And the exciting feeling as the tiny plane screamed through the sky for maybe eight to 10 minutes. (OK, there were a couple of crashes in there.)

Afterward, its lithium-polymer battery needed to be recharged. This usually takes about 30 or 40 minutes. You simply plug the plane into the remote control, which doubles as a charger and requires six AA batteries.) A Jet Set weighs next to nothing, so it requires a still day, or barely breezy conditions. Even a small breeze can make flying nearly impossible.

The Jet Set's box claims it can be controlled up to 100 feet away. Actually, it seems farther. But let it get too distant? It might take off on its own and cross into dangerous air space above the neighbor's swimming pool. (Living life on the edge is much of the thrill of Air Hogs planes.)

I had an even better time flying the A-10 Warthog. It's a slightly beefier, more impressive craft, and it requires a bit more room. The Warthog has removable wheels that supposedly allow it to take off from the ground after a rolling start.

I didn't bother. I cranked the throttle and gave the Warthog a toss. It's not the easiest plane to get airborne—perhaps that's why it's rated "intermediate"—but once it's up a good 15 feet or so, it keeps ascending.

It's the smoothest-flying Air Hogs plane I've experienced.

In the football field behind a local middle school, birds swooped at the plane and dogs chased below. It handled a slight breeze easily, and when I eased off the throttle, it glided nicely before I turned the props back on.

Air Hogs toy planes aren't perfect. They don't always turn on cue. Sometimes they have minds of their own. They crash. But they won't burn. (Unless you land in your Weber grill.) But, man, they're a blast. Eventually, your much-abused little treasure probably will bid you farewell—perhaps from atop a tree—and need to be replaced. But for $30 or $40, you've never lived through so much adventure.

More Air Hogs

Although the Jet Set and A-10 Warthog hit the sweet spot for price and fun for less than $40, here are three other Air Hogs to try, each with their own pluses and minuses:

Siddeley

Essentially, it's just a simple, huge foam glider. Totally basic. No batteries. No remote control. But it looks like Siddeley from "Cars 2," so that's cool, right?

Flip the tail, and it loops. After launching it a few times, we found ourselves trying to play catch with this glider more than anything else. It tends to break apart when its nose crashes into the ground, but don't sweat it. You can reassemble it in seconds.

Ages 5 and up. $12.99.

Wind Flyer

Good for children too young for remote-control Air Hogs; bad for dumb dads who fly it next to a river. Plug the Wind Flyer into a small, battery-powered charger for a minute or so, then watch the propellers start spinning and let 'er rip. There's no way to control it—just toss it and watch it. Flight times are pretty short and got shorter after the first couple of tries. (For optimal battery health, you're supposed to let it cool down for 2 minutes before recharging, which really isn't practical for an item targeted at little kids.)

Ages 5 and up. $9.99.

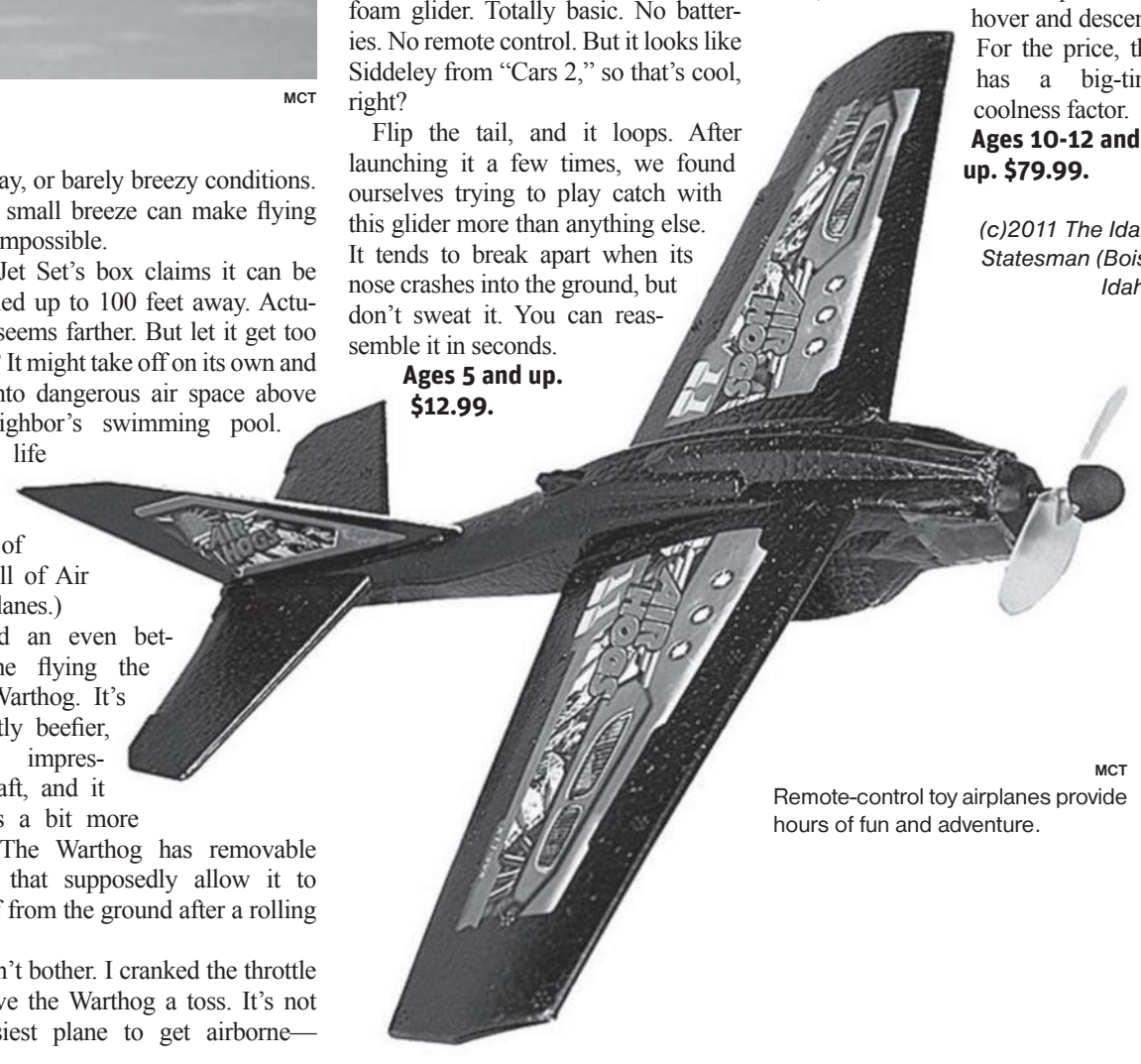
Osprey

This combination airplane/helicopter is a wicked-cool idea that works surprisingly well. It's sort of like a Transformer.

You can take off directly from the ground, straight up like a chopper. Then hit a switch and the wings—making a hydraulics-like buzz—rotate into horizontal airplane mode. As a plane, it doesn't fly overly fast and handles a mild breeze relatively well. It takes some practice, but it's easier to control than you might think. When it's time to land, switch back into helicopter mode, hover and descend. For the price, this has a big-time coolness factor.

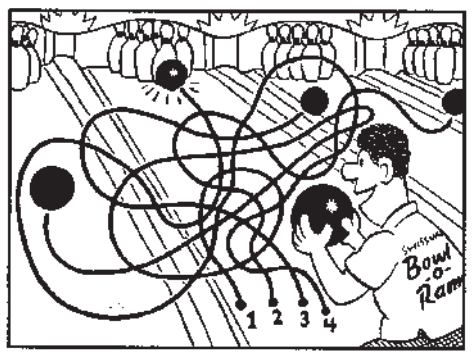
Ages 10-12 and up. $79.99.

(c)2011 The Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho)



MCT

Remote-control toy airplanes provide hours of fun and adventure.



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SEE IF YOU CAN HELP THIS BOWLER "pocket" his shot by picking the right spot to lay his bowling ball down.

Answer: Spot No. 4.

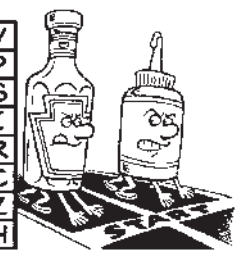
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

Illustrated by David Coulson

FIND THE FAST FOOD!

S	O	T	I	R	R	U	B	I	G	M	A	C	B	Y
E	S	S	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	N	N	H	U	P
L	H	N	A	Y	Q	D	E	R	O	U	B	I	R	S
K	A	O	Y	Q	A	P	I	T	G	I	U	C	G	I
C	K	I	O	T	P	N	A	G	S	W	L	K	E	R
I	E	N	S	O	K	L	E	T	T	U	C	E	R	C
P	S	O	H	S	Y	T	S	O	R	F	B	N	D	Z
T	T	W	P	U	S	T	A	C	H	E	E	S	E	H

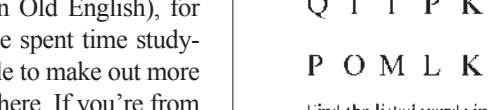


Can you "drive through" this puzzle in less than five minutes? Hidden in the diagram above are names and words associated with fast food. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you are looking for.

BIG MAC	CLUB	NUGGETS
BROILED	CRISPY	ONIONS
BURGER	DRINKS	PICKLES
BURRITOS	FROSTY	SHAKES
CATSUP	LETTUCE	SUBS
CHEESE	MAYO	TOSTADA
CHICKEN	MUSTARD	WHOPPER

CODE BREAKING 101! See if you can spy the next two letters in this coded transmission problem.

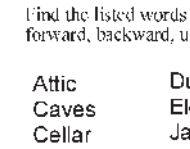
DEJ AFEM AAPMA JUJU__



Answer: The next two are the first two letters of the month of August.

THE "H" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the H's. Here are some hints, from the top down.

1. Symbol for hydrogen.
2. Expression of wonder.
3. Possessed at one time.
4. To move with haste.
5. Where no one wants to go.
6. Keeps out the sun.
7. Stored away.
8. Found on old radios.



Answers: The words are: H, ha, had, dash, Hades, shades, stashed, headsets.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was revered American comedian Bill Cosby who made the following sage observation: "Human beings are the only creatures that allow their children to come back home."

■ Here's a disturbing statistic for parents: If your child is like the average American youth, between the ages of 5 and 15 he or she will see approximately 13,500 people killed on television.

■ Most languages change dramatically over time. If we in modern America were to try to read "Beowulf" (which was written in Old English), for instance, only those who have spent time studying the language would be able to make out more than a word or two here and there. If you're from Iceland, however, this isn't the case; the written language there has remained virtually unchanged for more than 1,000 years. Modern Icelanders have no trouble reading sagas that were written in the 10th century.

■ Relative to body size, humans—unsurprisingly—have larger brains than any other animal. Of non-human animals, it's the bottlenose dolphin that has the largest brain.

■ When Great Britain's current Queen Elizabeth—then Princess Elizabeth—wed Prince Philip, their wedding cake weighed a whopping 500 pounds.

■ As legend has it, in 1288, when Dusseldorf, Germany, was granted its city charter, children all over the city began turning cartwheels for joy. The cartwheel has been an enduring part of the culture there ever since, and in 1937 the city even inaugurated an annual international cartwheel championship.

■ Those who study such things claim that when you're playing Monopoly, you're likely to land on Illinois Avenue and the B&O Railroad more than on any other squares.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I always find it more difficult to say the things I mean than the things I don't."—W. Somerset Maugham

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MAGIC MAZE ● CONFINED SPACES

D	E	B	Y	W	T	R	O	L	J	G	E	H	B	Y
W	U	R	P	N	E	K	N	I	G	D	T	B	Z	X
V	S	Q	O	C	L	O	S	E	T	O	F	M	K	I
G	E	C	A	Y	E	L	W	T	O	U	A	S	Q	P
N	L	J	H	G	V	E	E	B	F	E	R	C	A	R
Y	X	V	N	U	A	N	E	W	S	S	C	Q	E	A
P	N	U	M	K	T	N	M	C	R	J	E	K	L	L
H	D	F	E	C	O	U	B	I	Z	I	C	V	L	L
Y	X	V	U	H	R	T	T	T	N	O	A	R	A	E
Q	T	I	P	K	C	O	C	T	L	E	P	T	T	C
P	O	M	L	K	I	L	I	A	J	H	S	G	S	E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Attic	Dungeon	Mines	Stall
Caves	Elevator	Phone booth	Tent
Cellar	Jail	Spacecraft	Tunnel
Closet	Locker	Stairwell	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	×		+		15
+		÷		÷	
	÷		+		5
×		+		×	
	+		+		19
25		11		18	

1 2 3 4 5 6 6 8 9

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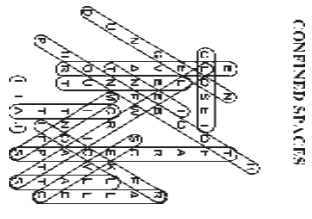
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

19	6	+	8	+	5
	×		+		×
5	3	+	2	÷	4
	÷		÷		+
15	9	+	6	×	1

A little personal space, please

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read a recent column of yours where an owner said her cat tended to scratch and nip at her without warning. You said that the cat might have some socialization problems due to being a shelter pet, or might be experiencing some stress. Could I add that cats that are perfectly "normal" and loving also will scratch or nip if they are surprised or feel otherwise threatened. It's natural.—Cat Fan in Chicago

DEAR CAT FAN: You're right; many cats will turn and scratch or nip when surprised. Others will bat or scratch at strangers or even family members who reach out to them. Why? Well, like humans, cats have varying levels of "personal space," so to speak. And because they're fiercely independent, many have specific likes and dislikes—opinions that can vary from family member to family member.

It's important to approach a cat, or any animal, with respect. Never sneak up behind or grab at a cat, and don't yell or make loud noises. Approach from an angle where it can see you clearly, and speak in a calm, reassuring voice. Hold out your hand for inspection, and let the cat come to you.

It's possible to figure out the most important signals just from this move. If it sniffs at your hand, rubs its whiskers against it and backs away, the cat's not interested in being picked up or petted at the moment. If it approaches you after rubbing its whiskers against your hand, you're welcome to pet it. If it allows you to gently pick it up and doesn't struggle, great. If it jumps into your lap, you belong to it (just kidding —sort of!).

■ ■ ■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Mini eggplant pizzas the Italian way

One of the joys of raising kids is making new friends with others who also are raising kids. When my three were preschoolers, I regularly met up with neighborhood moms at the bus stop in the morning or for ballgames at the park and story time at the library. As the kids grew, so did the friendships.

Six of us still make a point of getting together throughout the seasons to celebrate our birthdays. One recent gathering was particularly memorable.

Instead of meeting at a restaurant, we donned aprons in one of our kitchens and huddled around the center island for a cooking lesson taught by neighbor Cristina Garrasi Mazzei, an energetic mom from Italy.

"To an American eye, Italy might seem the same, with pasta and pizza wherever you go," she began. "But for food lovers, it's a country waiting to be discovered! Each region has its unique flavors and cooking techniques. For example, the taste of a simple ricotta cheese can vary from place to place," she said.

As she shared her passion for Italian food, she emphasized that using fresh, seasonal ingredients is key to tasty meals. That's when she showed us how to transform eggplant into a light side dish called Pizzette di melanzane, common in the Compania region, where she is from.

Like a pizza minus the crust, these mini eggplant pizzas are tasty and versatile.

Now that eggplants are plentiful in our markets, find Italy and the Compania region on a map in your home, and have fun preparing this easy and authentic Italian recipe with your kids.

MINI EGGPLANT PIZZAS (PIZZETTE DE MELANZANE)

1 large eggplant, about 1 pound
3/4 cup tomato puree
4 cloves fresh garlic, chopped
Salt to taste
Dried oregano, to taste
1 cup coarsely shredded mozzarella cheese, or a 4-ounce bag
Parmigiano Reggiano (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.

2. An adult should cut the eggplant into 1/2-inch-thick rounds. Arrange them on a lightly oiled baking sheet.

3. Like constructing mini pizzas, let kids spoon the tomato puree over each round. Scatter the garlic and oregano, sprinkle salt to taste and top with mozzarella. Add Parmigiano Reggiano, if you wish.

4. Bake rounds in the oven for 25 minutes or until mozzarella has melted completely and bubbles.

5. Serve immediately as a light side dish with a summer pasta salad and other fresh vegetables. Makes 8-10 mini pizzas.

As an alternative, Cristina suggests serving the mini pizzas cold in a sandwich.

Note: If your child is like her young daughter, omit the garlic until he or she develops a taste for it.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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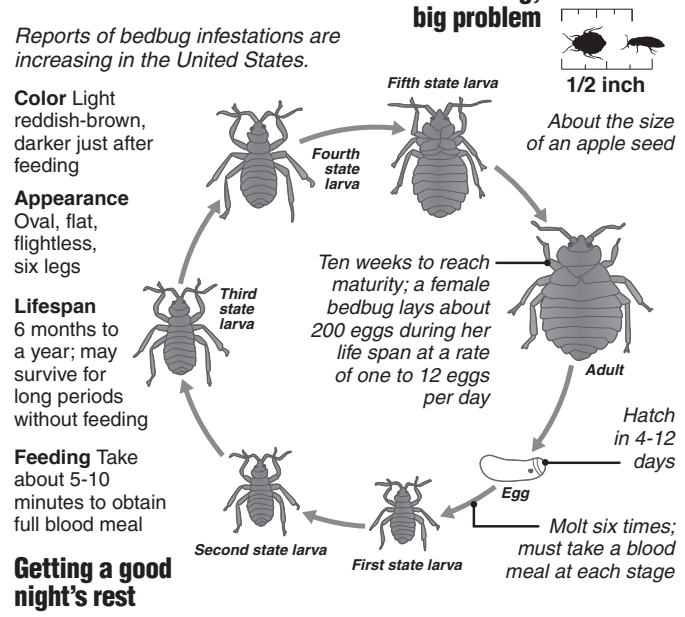
Good Housekeeping

Bedbugs: An A to Z primer

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Bedbug reports have sent people scurrying for relief.

Some are snapping up bug killers targeted at the nighttime marauders. Others are researching do-it-yourself methods on the Internet. What they hope to find is a fast, inexpensive fix.


Small bug, big problem
1 cm
1/2 inch
Reports of bedbug infestations are increasing in the United States.
Color Light reddish-brown, darker just after feeding
Appearance Oval, flat, flightless, six legs
Lifespan 6 months to a year; may survive for long periods without feeding
Feeding Take about 5-10 minutes to obtain full blood meal
Fifth state larva
About the size of an apple seed
Fourth state larva
Third state larva
Ten weeks to reach maturity; a female bedbug lays about 200 eggs during her life span at a rate of one to 12 eggs per day
Adult
Hatch in 4-12 days
Egg
Molt six times; must take a blood meal at each stage
First state larva
Second state larva
Getting a good night's rest
• Examine mattress, especially the seams for molted shells
• Keep bedrooms free of clutter, no fabric touching walls or floor; seal wall cracks and crevices
• Experts say exterminators, with several follow-up visits, may be needed
Source: Mayo Clinic, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2010 MCT

But don't count on it, bedbug experts say. Unfortunately, there is no easy remedy for most bedbug infestations.

"It is very, very difficult for an untrained individual to get rid of bedbugs unless they have caught it at a very, very early stage," said Susan C. Jones, an urban entomologist at Ohio State University and an authority on bedbugs. And infestations are rarely discovered until they've passed that stage, she said.

That's frustrating for many people, because the only viable option for a serious infestation is treatment by a professional pest control company, the experts say. That can involve multiple visits and can cost $1,000 or more.

Bedbug eradication works best with a variety of approaches, including chemicals, monitoring and nonchemical methods, said Donald Baumgartner, a bedbug specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5. "Unfortunately, there's no single answer," he said.

So why are bedbugs so hard to get rid of?

Largely it's because no single insecticide that's permitted for indoor use can kill bedbugs, entomologist Dini Miller writes in one of the fact sheets she's developed for the state of Virginia, where she is the state's urban pest management specialist and a widely recognized authority on bedbugs. The government limits what kinds of pesticides can be used indoors because of the potential for harming people and pets, explains Miller, who also runs the Dodson Urban Pest Management Laboratory at Virginia Tech.

Bedbugs are also hard to treat because they're so good at hiding, she said. Their hiding places can be many and difficult to pinpoint, and they often include places that can't be treated with insecticides.

Bedbugs can move easily, which makes control especially problematic in shared housing, such as apartment buildings.

Few lay people know enough about bedbug biology and behavior to control the pests effectively, said Tim McCoy, a research technician in Miller's lab. What's more, they don't have access to more concentrated products and other methods pros can use.

The products the public can buy—legally, that is—are minimally effective, Jones and McCoy said.

The products are often labeled "contact kill," "kills on contact" or some similar wording. That means the product will kill a bedbug only if it's sprayed directly on the insect, Jones said.

What's more, those products are no more effective than spraying a bug with soapy water or squashing it with a tissue, she and McCoy said.

Products made in other countries can be purchased online, but Miller points out that they're not subject to the same testing as U.S.-made insecticides and are illegal to use. "While most of these products may not be overtly dangerous, we have no way of knowing what the exposure risk might be if these products are used in the indoor environment," she writes.

Other do-it-yourself remedies pose a whole different set of problems. Some of them, such as boric acid, just don't work. (Bedbugs don't eat it; they feed on blood instead.) Others, such as rubbing alcohol, carry too much risk.

So what does work?

Education and vigilance, the experts say.

Know how to keep bedbugs out of your home in the first place, they advise. And in case the pests do get in, know how to spot them early.

Itchy welts from bedbug bites might be your first sign. Another might be bloodstains from crushed bugs or rusty or dark spots of excrement. Jones said box springs are the first place you're likely to see signs, so check those regularly, along with mattresses, bed clothes and even walls.

If you suspect you have bedbugs, get a sample bug identified, if possible. You don't want to go through the bother and expense of treatment if bedbugs aren't the culprit, Jones said.

A sample can be sent to OSU's Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic for a $20 fee. (Details are at http://ppdc.osu.edu.) Or take it to your local health department, which will send it to the Ohio Department of Health, Jones said.

Here's the good news: If you catch bedbugs early enough, getting rid of them may be a much simpler—and cheaper—process.

Enclosing the mattress and box springs in encasements made specifically for bedbugs can help in a minor infestation, McCoy said. Jones suggested vacuuming or scrubbing the mattress and box springs first, spraying them with a contact pesticide or treating them with a steamer. Work very slowly, covering about 12 inches every 30 seconds.

Another approach is to put the legs of the bed on insect interceptors such as ClimbUps, dishlike devices that capture bugs trying to climb onto or off a bed.

McCoy said dusting the area around the bed frame with diatomaceous earth can also help, because it dries up and kills bedbugs. Be sure to use only food-grade diatomaceous earth, he said, because the kind used for pool filters can cause lung disease. Check for it in agricultural feed stores, and apply it with a bulb duster, a device used for applying insecticide dust.

Heat kills bedbugs, so dry bedding, clothing and anything else that can go into a clothes dryer for at least 30 minutes on high heat or 90 minutes on medium heat. A dryer with a removable shelf can be used for items that can't be tumbled, such as leather shoes, handbags, knickknacks and books.

Or take advantage of the summer's heat by simply placing everything in trash bags and putting them in a hot car for a couple of hours, McCoy suggested.

But if the bugs persist, get help, the experts say.

It's a problem you just can't tackle yourself.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Bedbugs ride into your home on things, such as clothing, furniture and suitcases. Here are some tips for keeping bedbugs out:

■ Inspect used goods such as furniture and books before bringing them into your home.

■ Avoid renting furniture or storing other people's furniture.

■ Don't buy refurbished mattresses or old couches.

■ After helping a friend move or transporting someone else's belongings, inspect your vehicle. Bedbugs probably won't survive the heat of a car in hot weather, but they can thrive in cool weather.

■ If you buy a new mattress, transport it yourself. Often the same trucks used to deliver mattresses are used to haul old ones away.

■ Don't pile guests' coats on a bed.

■ When traveling, inspect the hotel room for signs of bedbugs. Pay close attention to the mattress and box springs, including their seams and the underside of the mattress, and inspect the luggage rack. If possible, pull the bed away from the wall and inspect the back of the headboard, particularly the holes for set-in screws and the plate that allows the headboard to hang from the wall. Use a flashlight to inspect the closet.

■ Keep your suitcase on the luggage rack, not a spare bed. Keep your belongings in it rather than unpacking and putting them in drawers.

■ When you get home, unpack in a place other than the bedroom, such as the garage, bathroom, basement or mud room. Launder all clothing and dry in the dryer, or put everything in a garbage bag and leave it in a hot car for a few hours. You can do the same with your suitcase if you have reason to believe it has encountered bedbugs.

■ If you can't treat your suitcase with heat, put a NoPest strip in the bag to fumigate it.

Sources: Dini M. Miller and Tim McCoy, Virginia Tech; Susan C. Jones, Ohio State University.

The Debrum – Aguon Family

Our Beloved Mothers

We the family of Agnes "BūBū" K. Debrum and Namiko (Mom) N. Louis would like to invite you all in thoughts and prayers with us in Saipan in memory of their 1st and 10th Year Death Anniversary.

Agnes K. Debrum (1st Year)
1/16/38 — 9/6/2010

Namiko N. Louis (10th Year)
4/2/40 — 9/1/2001

We wish you to join us in a Silent Moment in thought and prayers as we celebrate their joint anniversary on the 3rd of September at Kagman Saipan. We are all in Facebook so if you are too, you may post your prayers and thoughts on this day and share with all as we are blessed to be able to and be one for a moment with our beloved "Moms". Please continue to cherish them always and smile for them as we know ourselves that they made us smile and laughter was abundant in their lifetime. Two very special Women! So much loved by those they left back in life to carry their legacies. Thank you Lord our Father in heaven for Our Moms. Amen.

May we share a moment of silence to remember and pray for those who lost their loved ones on this 10th Anniversary of 9/11/11. May God be with us all!

Thank you!
Ruf, Caro and Tim

Life & Style

‘DWTS’ producer: Give Chaz Bono a chance to dance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—””Dancing With the Stars” executive producer Conrad Green says despite controversy over the casting of its first transgender contestant, “Dancing” remains a family show and viewers should check out the new season before passing judgment.

Chaz Bono, who was born female but underwent surgery to become a man, is among the cast of 12 celebrities set to appear on the ABC hit when it premieres later this month—a decision that’s drawn ire from some “Dancing” fans and conservative media groups.

Dan Gainor of the Culture and Media Institute calls Bono’s casting “a ridiculous, agenda-driven move by ‘Dancing With the Stars.’”

“This is the latest example of the networks trying to push a sexual agenda on American families,” he said Thursday.

The organization is not calling for a boycott of the show, but online group OneMillionMoms.com is. It says on its website that the casting of Bono and openly-gay reality star Carson Kressley “is completely unacceptable and Christians should not watch the show, no excuses!”

Besides Bono and Kressley, the new cast includes basketball star Ron Artest; World Cup soccer player Hope Solo; reality stars Robert Kardashian and Kristin Cavallari; TV personalities Nancy Grace and Ricki Lake; singer-actress Chynna Phillips; actors David Arquette and J.R. Martinez; and Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis, who may be better known in the United States for being George Clooney’s ex-girlfriend.

Green says the show has no agenda other than entertainment and always seeks to represent a range of people.

“I think we’ve had three gay or transgender contestants out of about 120 on the show, so what we’re really doing is reflecting some of the makeup of this vast array of people that make up American society,” he said in an interview Thursday.

The show remains family friendly,

AP

In this July 7, 2011 file photo, activist Chaz Bono arrives at the premiere of the feature film “Gun Hill Road” in Los Angeles.

he said, adding that he has young children of his own.

“We’re not going to be dwelling on Chaz’s sexuality any more than we dwell on anyone’s sexuality on the show,” he said. “We’re not going to be going into things that are going to make it difficult for you to watch with your children at all.”

Bono wasn’t cast to stir controversy, but because he’s “a great guy and he’s got a really interesting story,” Green said. “He comes from Hollywood royalty as a family and is familiar to loads of our audience throughout his life.”

Bono is the only child of Cher and Sonny Bono.

Cher has taken to Twitter this week to blast the “stupid bigots” who she says have “viciously attacked” her son since the “Dancing” cast was announced on Monday. She praised his courage for appearing on the show and wrote: “bet VAST MAJORITY of People will LOVE CHAZ on DWTS !”

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation praised the network and “Dancing” producers for casting Bono. Spokeswoman Sharda Sekaran said that despite some negative response, his appearance on the show may help foster better understanding about transgender people.

“This community faces a lot of misunderstanding, fear and hatred, and all too often, violence,” she said. “But these are people just like anybody else, who are part of everyday things as normal as entertaining audiences on a dancing show.

“Even with the negative reaction, it gives people exposure and access to the story of a real-life transgender person.”

Bono said on his Twitter page Thursday that he is “overwhelmed by the outpouring of support I received from everyone.”

“I don’t listen to the haters, but embrace the love,” he wrote.

Green said Bono’s casting and the resulting conversation has boosted awareness of the show, but he hopes dancing supplants controversy when the show premieres on Sept. 19: “I hope that a lot of the people who appear to be upset at the moment will give him a chance and maybe realize it’s not quite as bad as they think.”

Madonna says she identifies with Wallis Simpson

VENICE, Italy (AP)—There may be few people better suited than Madonna to tell the story of the two-time American divorcee for whom Britain’s King Edward VIII abdicated his throne.

The star herself acknowledges the parallels with Wallis Simpson, the central figure in her sophomore directorial effort, “W.E.,” which made its world premiere out of competition at the Venice Film Festival on Thursday.

She ticked off their common traits: Americans married to Brits. A shared love of fabulous clothes. A sense of adventure. Tenacity, resourcefulness and resilience. But on a deeper level, Madonna said, she can relate to the limitations imposed by enormous fame—or notoriety.

“I think once you become famous, you have to pretty much relinquish the idea that people are going to see you for who you are, or look beyond the surface of things,” Madonna told a small group of reporters. “I think that was a source of great frustration for Wallis Simpson and for Edward VIII, because after he abdicated, they didn’t really have the opportunity to defend themselves.

“So hopefully, I have been able to do that for Wallis Simpson through my film.”

Madonna spent several years researching before sitting down to write the film with Alek Keshishian, the director of her “Truth or Dare” documentary. What emerges is a sympathetic portrait of the oft-maligned Simpson that attempts to show what the American divorcee—and not just the king—sacrificed to marry in 1937.

“I think she felt an existential loneliness,” Madonna said.

“W.E.”—short for Wallis and Edward, who are portrayed by Andrea Riseborough and James D’Arcy—tells Simpson’s story through the eyes of a modern-day namesake who seeks solace from her unhappy marriage in the details of what in its day was considered the romance of the century.

AP

From left actor Oscar Isaac, British actresses Natalie Dormer and Andrea Riseborough, US singer and director Madonna, Australian actress Abbie Cornish and British actor James D’Arcy pose at the photo call for the film W.E. during the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011.

Wally Winthrop (Abbie Cornish) becomes obsessed with a Sotheby’s auction of personal items that once belonged to Wallis and Edward, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The everyday objects—an engraved cigarette case, a martini shaker—become a sort of portal between the 1930s and 1998, the year of the real-life auction. In a testament to their enduring fascination, the sale totaled $23.4 million, three times Sotheby’s original estimate.

The movie covers the same period as last year’s Oscar-winning “The King’s Speech,” which focused on Edward’s brother Bertie, who strived to overcome a speech impediment as he was elevated to the throne in the wake of his brother’s abdication.

“I view the success off that film as laying the ground work for my film,” Madonna said. “There’s a little bit of history, and a little bit of knowledge. We are not starting from a blank slate.”

Much of Simpson’s inner life in the film is revealed by the Duchess’s correspondence with the Duke and other confidantes.

In the film, Wallace confides in a letter to her aunt, “You have no idea how hard it is to live out the great romance of the century, and to know I will have to be with him, always and always and always and always.” Madonna read numerous books and films in her research and adamantly rejects contentions that Simpson was a Nazi or Nazi sympathizer, a point she seeks to rebut in the film.

“In fact, I believed she was a Nazi too, when I started my investigation. But after years of research, I could find no empirical evidence proving she was a Nazi or Nazi sympathizer,” Madonna said.

While she and her husband did have lunch with Hitler, and Simpson met with Hitler’s foreign minister, Madonna said they were far from the only ones in that era to do so.

“There was nothing unusual about them having a meeting at that time,” Madonna said. “I believe people wanted to undermined their popularity once they abdicated.”

The film is rich in visual detail, with a sumptuous wardrobe created by Arianne Phillips from photographs of the Duke and Duchess together and studies of fashion archives and museums. The jeweler Cartier also recreated copies of pieces that the Duke had commissioned for the Duchess, apparently an attempt to make up for the royal jewels that would never be hers.

Madonna said she wanted to indulge in the luxury as a counterpoint to the poverty of the inner lives of the two protagonists: “To make the point that no matter how beautiful and glamorous your surroundings, there is no guarantee for happiness.”

For the film’s press debut, Madonna wore a replica of a bracelet made for Simpson by Cartier, with the birthstones of her four children, and a prim dark dress with a high white collar and white trim along the sleeves she said would have appealed to Simpson.

Madonna said she received support for the project from both her two director ex-husbands, Sean Penn and Guy Ritchie. But she also acknowledged that that during her 10-year marriage to Ritchie, she was intimidated from directing.

“I didn’t think I had the right to make a film until I paid my dues, which I did by making “Filth and Wisdom” in 2008, she said.

Madonna, the enduring pop icon who has been a dancer, singer, actress and now director, says all of her experience is coming together in “W.E.”

“I see myself as a storyteller. Film has always informed the other areas of my work. I don’t think that being a filmmaker is such a big leap,” she said. “I think all of my work before actually prepared me for the responsibility of filmmaking.”

WWII portraits of Jewish 'counterfeiters' donated

NEW YORK (AP)—He survived the Holocaust carrying the solemn portraits he drew of concentration camp prisoners who labored alongside him in one of the largest counterfeiting operations in history. For decades, those portraits have rarely been seen.

Now the collection of 43 drawings by Felix Cytrin of his fellow Jewish prisoners have been donated to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and museum, where researchers can study them and they will be exhibited for public viewing.

They are among the few images that exist of the young men who worked in an infamous secret Nazi operation to produce fake money, fictionalized in the Oscar-winning film "The Counterfeiters." Cytrin's heirs donated them to Yad Vashem at a special ceremony Thursday.

The works, most dated 1944 and 1945, were drawn on paper in pencil, charcoal and chalk.

"I think what is amazing when you look at these portraits is how beautiful these young men look," said Yehudit Shendar, the senior art curator for the Jerusalem-based museum, who came to New York City to receive the portraits.

"Probably Cytrin felt a need to beautify them. Why to beautify them? To give them back the individuality that they were robbed of during that time," she said.

The works will be integrated into Yad Vashem's art collection, and some will be exhibited in Jerusalem in December, along with other portraits created by artists imprisoned during World War II.

Shendar said they belonged to a genre of portraiture by imprisoned artists who sought to document the faces of people who were likely doomed.

The Nazis hand-picked from death camps a group of about 140 mostly skilled craftsmen at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp north of Berlin beginning in 1942, and gave them the dubious choice of creating bogus money for the Nazis or almost certain death. They were isolated away from the rest of the camp in barracks known as Block 19, surrounded by barbed wire.

Lawyer: Rapper T.I. back in federal custody

ATLANTA (AP)—Grammy-winning rapper T.I., who was freed after months in prison, was back in federal custody Thursday because of a flap over his use of a luxury bus to report to a halfway house, his lawyer said.

Steve Sadow told The Associated Press that the Federal Bureau of Prisons "has moved T.I. to a different facility" because of an issue involving the rapper's 375-mile trip Wednesday from the Arkansas lockup to Atlanta in a gleaming motor coach.

He did not elaborate on the exact nature of the problem federal authorities had, but said it was not drug-related. He said they are trying to resolve the problem.

T.I., whose real name is Clifford Harris, traveled with an entourage to check into the halfway house, stepping off the bus clad in a red and blue striped polo shirt and white shirts.

"There appears to be confusion surrounding the method of transportation," Sadow said.

Federal authorities had no further information late Thursday night where Harris was taken.

Traci Billingsley, a spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, told the AP that she couldn't comment on the rapper's status or his immediate whereabouts.

T.I. had initially served about seven months at the prison in 2009 after he was arrested for trying to buy unregistered guns and silencers from undercover federal agents. He was on probation after he was released and ordered not to commit another crime or to illegally possess any controlled substances.

He was arrested again in September 2010 in Los Angeles on drug charges after authorities said he was found with four ecstasy pills. He was sentenced in October to 11 months in prison for that violation, and had been set for release at the end of September but was let go early.

Prosecutors worried about leaks in Jackson case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors want to delay disclosure of coroner and fire department records on Michael Jackson's death to parties in a civil suit to prevent information leaks to the media before the trial of his doctor.

In documents filed Wednesday, Deputy District Attorneys David Walgren and Deborah Brazil said media leaks would be inevitable if the reports are released for the civil case, in which Lloyd's of London is suing entertainment giant AEG Live over the insurance policy for the pop star's ill-fated concert series.

The prosecutors asked that materials including Jackson's autopsy photos remain sealed until the conclusion of the involuntary manslaughter trial for Dr. Conrad Murray.

Noting that Murray's case has received "significant, unrelenting media attention," they said any media leaks also would complicate jury selection for that criminal trial, which begins Sept.8.

Prosecutors predicted that those with access to the evidence would be offered money for any information. They also said some of the material sought in the lawsuit may never be admitted in evidence at the criminal trial.

Actress Kate Winslet arrives for the premiere of her movie Carnage at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011. AP

Kate Winslet owns most memorable scene in 'Carnage'

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The most memorable scene in Roman Polanski's new film "Carnage" belongs to Oscar-winner Kate Winslet.

Just ask her kids. Winslet says they are still talking about the day she had to projectile vomit on set.

Winslet portrays a mother who sets out to settle a dispute over a playground fight involving her son. But she literally can't stomach the accusations of the other mother, played by Jodie Foster.

"Carnage" is a sort of "Lord of the Flies" for the parental set—where civilized intentions go horribly awry as each character reveals their baser sides while trying to settle a playground dispute.

It is based on a play by Yasmina Reza.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Queen of Soul to warm up for Obama in Detroit

DETROIT (AP)—President Barack Obama will have a royal warm-up act when he comes to Detroit to speak during the city's annual Labor Day festivities. Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin is scheduled to perform Monday before Obama speaks near the Renaissance Center at an event sponsored by the Metro Detroit Central Labor Council. Also scheduled to perform is Detroit's Mosaic Youth Theater. The event is free and open to the public. It will be Obama's second trip to Michigan in a month. Obama visited a battery plant in Holland on Aug. 11. Obama has promoted his administration's work to rescue Chrysler and General Motors, which is headquartered in the Renaissance Center. He's expected to deliver a speech to a joint session of Congress next week describing his job-creation plan.

No cash for US boy who made 'miracle' shot

FAIRBAULT, Minnesota (AP)—A boy who made an incredible hockey shot during a charity event won't collect the $50,000 prize because his twin brother should have taken the shot. The company that insured the event, Odds On Promotions, said Wednesday it would instead donate $20,000 to youth hockey in Minnesota in the boys' names. Eleven-year-old Nate Smith hit the puck through a tiny hole 89 feet (27 meters) away during a charity hockey game in Faribault on Aug. 11. But it was Nate's identical twin, Nick, whose raffle ticket won the chance to take the shot. The boys' father, Pat Smith, says Nick was outside and told his brother to try. Smith told organizers the next day about the swap. Smith said Wednesday the boys are disappointed but excited youth hockey will benefit.

Detectives check authenticity of stolen Rembrandt

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County authorities are checking the authenticity and ownership of a Rembrandt sketch reported stolen from a seaside hotel and then recovered days later. Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore told the Los Angeles Times that investigators won't return the pen-and-ink drawing until they can verify it is the work of the Dutch master. He says the Linearis Institute has yet to provide proof of ownership of the piece, which it claims to be worth $250,000. The institute was hosting an auction at Marina del Rey when the artwork was reported stolen on Aug. 13. It mysteriously surfaced two days later at a church in the San Fernando Valley. The Times says several experts on Rembrandt's work were unfamiliar with the piece called "The Judgment," which the institute said was completed around 1655 and signed on the back by Rembrandt van Rijn. An attorney for Linearis insisted that the institute owns the sketch and has taken steps to verify its authenticity. He said the institute may seek a court order to have it returned.

Adult son's critical father isn't worth trying to please

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a good life and are financially secure. Our kids are grown and we now have grandchildren. The problem is my father.

Every time I'm around him, he always comments on my shortcomings and faults. I have never measured up to my father's standards, and I finally realize I never will. I have lost all respect for him and do not want to be around him at all.

My mother is nothing like him, and I still enjoy her company. I don't understand why he treats me this way. Most fathers would be proud to have a son like me. Any suggestions, Abby?

LOSING SANITY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR LOSING SANITY: Your father may act the way he does out of a need to control you. By withholding approval, he makes you constantly try to win it. Or, he may be hypercritical out of some deep-seated insecurity of his own because it makes him feel superior.

Believe it or not, your father's behavior probably has less to do with you than with HIM. For further insight into your toxic parent, please talk to a psychologist. It will be money and time well-spent.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A younger brother died of cancer four years ago. Recently his wife, "Kaye," has been coming to stay with my husband and me for a week or two at a time. The reason for the frequent visits is she has a boyfriend here in Arizona. (She lives in California.)

Kaye tells me she "misses me" and uses that as an excuse for her visits, but I know she's doing it for the free lodging. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but she isn't getting the hint.

My husband is retired and doesn't want Kaye in our home this often. She has visited for three weeks over the past two months and wants to come back again. I think her boyfriend should pay for her lodging. Then she can come, see us, and spend as much time as she wants with him.

How can I help Kaye see the big picture?

SORE SISTER-IN-LAW IN PHOENIX

DEAR "SIS": Your hints haven't been strong enough. Tell Kaye that the time she wants to come "isn't convenient" and suggest she make arrangements for other accommodations such as hotel or motel.

If she says she can't afford it, suggest that her boyfriend "chip in"—or better yet, visit her in California.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A friend, "Dave," is coming here for a visit. He wears false teeth. My husband refuses to have meals with him because Dave removes his teeth when he eats. My husband says it's repulsive and ruins his dinner. Now he wants me to tell Dave to keep his teeth in or he won't be joining us. I'm afraid it will make things awkward and cause hard feelings. What to do?

IN THE MIDDLE IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

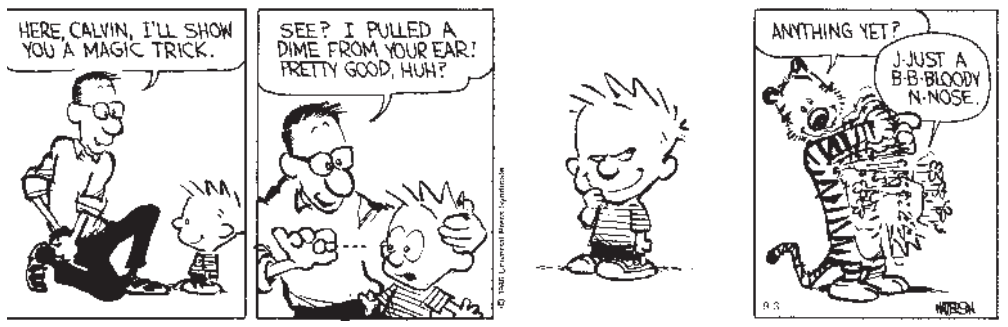
DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: One would think that denture wearers would need their dental appliances in in order to eat. The fact Dave removes his may indicate that his don't fit properly. Call your friend and suggest he see his dentist before he makes the trip. That way, Dave may be able to eat comfortably with his teeth in, and your husband won't be so grossed out he has to eat elsewhere.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HERE, CALVIN, I'LL SHOW YOU A MAGIC TRICK.
SEE? I PULLED A DIME FROM YOUR EAR! PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
ANYTHING YET?
I JUST A B-B-BLOODY N-NOSE.

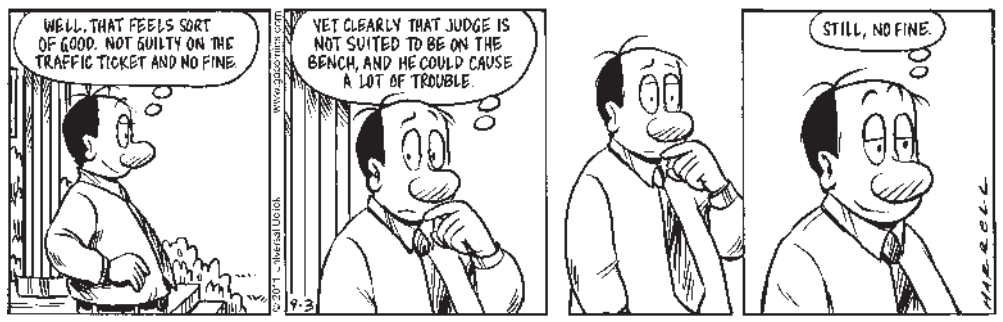
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

RIIING
CLICK JON HERE, I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW...
I'M PROBABLY OFF ON SOME EXOTIC ADVENTURE...
HEY, MAYBE I'LL FIND A SHRUNKEN HEAD!
THIS IS WHY WE NEVER GET MESSAGES
JIM DAVIS 9-3

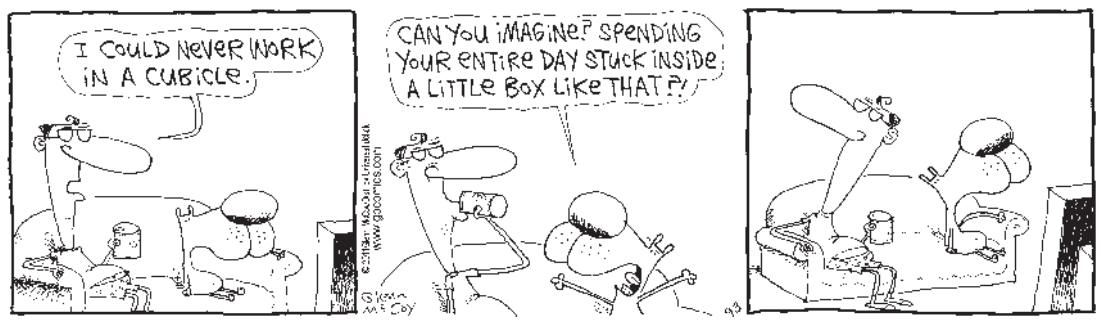
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WELL, THAT FEELS SORT OF GOOD. NOT GUILTY ON THE TRAFFIC TICKET AND NO FINE.
YET CLEARLY THAT JUDGE IS NOT SUITED TO BE ON THE BENCH, AND HE COULD CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE.
STILL, NO FINE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "A pox upon thee!"
4 Wound reminder
8 Part of MSG
12 Dine
13 Fashion magazine
14 In the thick of
15 Id counterpart
16 British pound
17 Missile shelter
18 "Peter Piper picked a peck..." for one
21 "Fine"
22 Indivisible
23 Oyster's prize
26 Moo goo gai pan pan
27 Moving truck
30 Red Muppet
31 Blue
32 Medal earner
33 Speed along
34 Festive
35 Amalgamated
36 Chum
37 Summer mo.
38 Early Beatles hit
45 Prepare to break a bone?
46 "— oui, monsieur"
47 Underwire underwear
48 Can. prov.
49 "Gotcha"
50 Doctrine
51 Lento
52 Author Bellow
53 Spigot

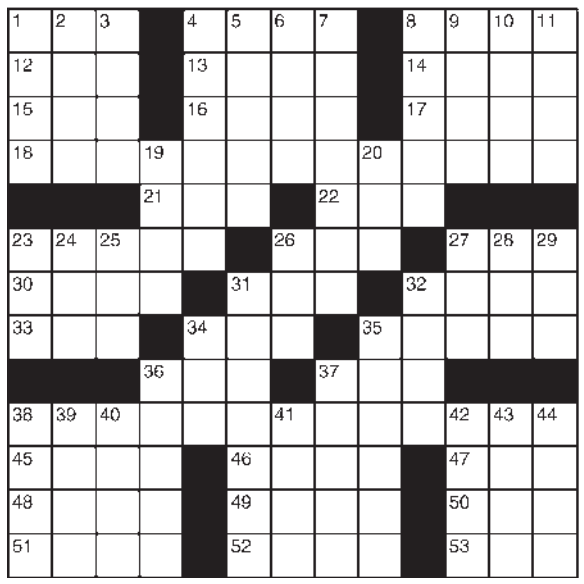
DOWN

1 Poetic measures
2 Othello foe
3 007's alma mater
4 Second story?
5 This list
6 Settled down
7 California's — National Park
8 Billiards maneuver
9 Skip over
10 Cleo's water
11 Blood-hound's trail
19 Pita sandwich
20 Squid squirt
23 Candy known for its dispensers
24 Yale student
25 Pump up the volume
26 Method
27 Irritate
28 Is pluralized
29 Affirmative action
31 Ancient city of Cyprus
32 Lofty
34 Roscoe
35 Shellfish
36 "Nonsense!"
37 Farewell
38 "Jabberwocky" starter
39 Volition
40 Ratio phrase
41 Houston acronym
42 Last write-up
43 Bear up there
44 Pack down

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	A	V		C	A	P		C	O	L	D	S
A	L	I		O	L	E		O	A	S	I	S
P	I	X		B	L	E	W	A	F	U	S	E
A	B	E		B	E	V	E	L				
Z	I	N	C		G	E	L		T	A	R	O
			H	O	E		L	A	W	Y	E	R
B	A	B	A	R			P	I	E	C	E	
A	M	A	Z	O	N		S	E	X			
R	A	Z	Z		A	M	I		T	A	X	I
				A	D	A	M	S		T	E	N
B	L	U	E	B	A	Y	O	U		A	N	D
A	I	S	L	E		O	N	E		L	I	E
A	B	A	F	T		R	O	D		I	A	X

Yesterday's answer 9-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaun White, 25; Garrett Hedlund, 27; Charlie Sheen, 46; Eileen Brennan, 79.

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions take over. Approach people you deal with personally and professionally with caution. The less information you hand out, the better. Keep an open mind, but at the same time assess what you are told and use it to benefit you financially and emotionally. Set your sights on learning something new or picking up a skill that will help you increase your earning potential. Your numbers are 4, 13, 15, 22, 29, 36, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can change your financial situation by changing your budget, overhead or living arrangements. Discuss your creative ideas with someone you respect. You will get some great ideas that will inspire you. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put your time and effort into self-improvement, socializing and enhancing any meaningful relationship. Love and romance are in the stars. What you do will impress someone you care about far more than what you say. A mini trip will contribute to your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick close to home. Emotional issues can be raised and suggestions will be offered that will help you make the right choice regarding personal matters. Don't let anyone cost you financially. Avoid disputes. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Consistency will be important if you want to be taken seriously. Love and romance are highlighted, and enjoying social activities or events will promote interesting discussions and closer ties to someone you care for. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stay away from emotional banter. It is best to concentrate on changes that will boost your confidence. You can find out important information if you listen to someone who has experience or an unusual background. Hard work will pay off, but overreacting will not. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Speak from the heart and let your true feelings be known. Sharing will benefit you in the end. Physically changing your surroundings or your residence will pay off. You will prosper if you pitch in and help a cause you believe in. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Talk over your options with someone you trust. Getting a clear picture of how you can improve your life will help you make the right choices. Try to deal with any situation that has made you look unstable. Don't spend money you don't have. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more effort into your relationships. Love is on the rise, and making the right moves or suggestions will help you get what you want later in the day, as long as you are honest and prepared to follow through on promises. Welcome any change that comes your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Confusion is likely to take over if you get caught in a lie or have trouble making up your mind about a personal relationship. You may have to do some fancy footwork if you want to maintain your status quo. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spend time with people you respect. You can expect to be repaid an old debt or make money selling an unwanted possession. Dress up your surroundings, and you will find them more compatible with your current lifestyle. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to anyone who is overreacting or pushing you to take on something you don't want to do. Avoid being stuck with other people's responsibilities. It's time to make personal changes that will benefit you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may think that getting emotional will help you get your way, but in the end it will ruin a relationship that means a lot. A stalemate will develop if you try to force someone to agree with you. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed, determined and intent on doing things your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						8		
	6	4			5			
	5			7		2		9
				3	8		4	
		6				3		
	8		9	5				
8		2		4			3	
			2			6	1	
		9						

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	5	3	7	1	8	9	2	4
1	7	9	2	4	5	6	3	8
2	8	4	6	3	9	5	1	7
4	3	7	9	2	6	1	8	5
9	6	5	1	8	4	2	7	3
8	2	1	3	5	7	4	9	6
5	1	2	4	7	3	8	6	9
3	4	6	8	9	2	7	5	1
7	9	8	5	6	1	3	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/02

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LET'S WALK THE WALK Solution: 9 letters

R	E	C	N	A	C	T	S	A	E	R	B	A	G	G
H	E	L	P	H	Y	A	E	V	I	T	C	A	N	N
T	W	G	A	S	T	R	E	T	C	H	I	I	I	I
L	E	R	I	W	I	A	J	O	I	N	X	N	R	C
A	G	T	O	S	C	A	M	E	R	A	A	S	A	N
E	A	L	S	H	T	O	V	E	L	R	D	P	P	A
H	S	E	E	E	N	E	D	E	E	P	A	I	E	D
P	S	S	A	E	T	I	R	A	I	S	E	R	R	O
R	E	M	Y	I	R	O	U	T	E	S	L	A	P	N
A	M	R	N	T	P	E	O	P	L	E	I	T	U	A
C	I	U	S	N	A	H	S	I	N	I	F	I	M	T
T	L	N	S	O	I	A	D	V	I	C	E	O	R	E
I	E	R	A	C	N	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	A	S
C	S	E	V	I	L	A	F	A	S	T	A	E	W	S
E	V	E	N	T	S	E	L	A	O	G	O	J	S	A

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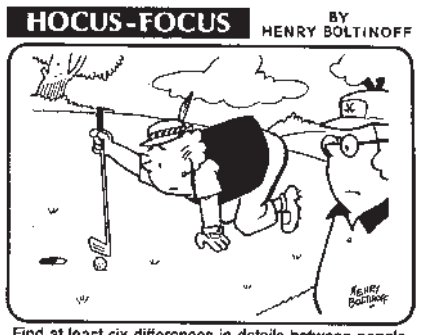
Aches, Achieve, Active, Advice, Asset, Breast Cancer, Camera, Care, Charge, City, Dancing, Deep, Donate, Events, Fast, Finish, Gain, Goal, Health, Help, Inspiration, Jog, Join, Lead, Life, Lives, Message, Miles, Money, Muscle, Pain, People, Personal, Practice, Preparing, Raise, Register, Relaxing, Routes, Run, Slow, Stretch, Stride, Sweat, Team, Test, Train, Unite, Warm Up

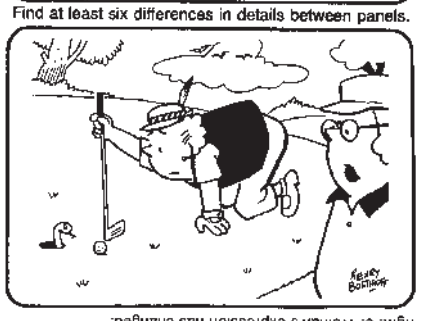
Yesterday's Answer: Surgeries

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Snake in golf hole. 2. No insignia on hat. 3. Cleats are missing. 4. Birds in sky. 5. Golf club facing right. 6. Woman's expression has changed.

Wishing Well®

5	6	2	5	8	3	7	4	5	6	3	5	3
Y	Y	J	O	T	Y	M	R	U	O	O	E	U
5	6	4	5	4	5	3	4	8	3	7	5	4
X	U	E	U	L	D	A	Y	I	I	O	E	O
7	5	2	4	6	2	4	5	3	8	6	4	7
R	S	O	N	F	B	G	U	D	M	I	O	E
3	5	6	3	8	6	2	3	4	7	3	7	5
E	C	N	L	E	D	S	D	O	L	E	E	C
2	8	7	4	7	8	4	5	2	6	5	2	7
E	F	I	D	S	O	T	E	C	A	S	U	U
5	6	4	8	6	4	6	4	3	8	4	3	2
S	L	A	R	L	S	Y	T	R	P	E	L	R
7	3	7	2	7	2	7	8	7	8	2	7	8
R	Y	E	I	T	T	I	L	M	A	Y	E	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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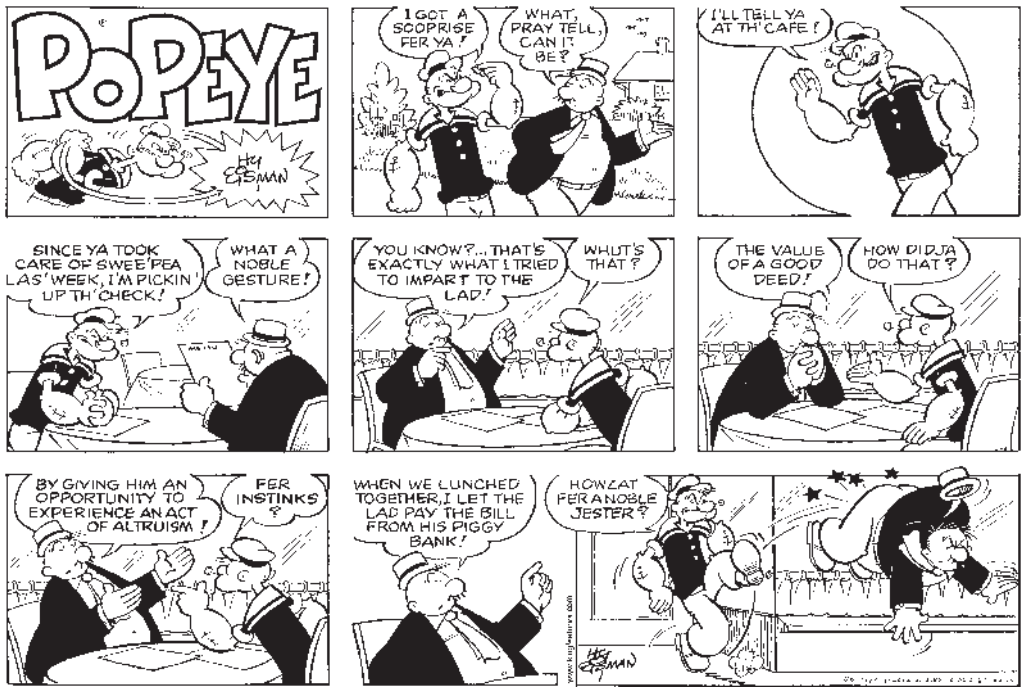
POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
I GOT A SCOOPRISE FER YA!
WHAT, PRAY TELL, CAN IT BE?
I'LL TELL YA AT TH' CAFE!
SINCE YA TOOK CARE OF SWEE'PEA LAS' WEEK, I'M PICKIN' UP TH' CHECK!
WHAT A NOBLE GESTURE!
YOU KNOW?... THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I TRIED TO IMPART TO THE LAD!
WHUT'S THAT?
THE VALUE OF A GOOD DEED!
HOW DIDJA DO THAT?
BY GIVING HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE AN ACT OF ALTRUISM!
FER INSTINKS?
WHEN WE LUNCHED TOGETHER, I LET THE LAD PAY THE BILL FROM HIS PIGGY BANK!
HOWZAT FER A NOBLE JESTER?
HEY EISMAN

Super Crossword

WORD PLAY

ACROSS

1 "My country, — of thee . . ."
4 Apply gently
7 Theater sign
10 Singer Sumac
13 West or Faith
17 Audiophiles' equipment
19 Drop a brick
20 Israeli city
22 Seedy spot
23 —TBALL
25 Varnish ingredient
26 On a cruise
27 Flynn of films
28 Port —, Egypt
30 Harden
32 Jillian of "It's a Living"
33 Dubuque denizen
35 Checker move?
38 Famed loch
39 Set
40 PL—ARIUM
43 Tipple
45 Conservative skirt
49 Raven maven?
50 Burrowing critter
51 Bound bundle
52 Gray or Moran
53 It'll curl your hair
55 Salamander
57 Bodybuilder Charles
59 Actor Howard
61 Scrape by, with "out"
63 Investigate
66 Baseball's Martinez
68 BRAN—
71 Debtor's letters
72 "— Dawn" ('73 song)
74 Shrimpton or Stapleton
76 Help a hood
77 Poet Rossetti
79 "Baby — Want You" ('71 hit)
80 SC—ION
82 For — (cheaply)
84 Albert's wife
88 — Cruces, NM
89 Standardize
92 Bathrobe fabric
93 "La Boheme" seamstress
96 Reverberate
99 "Orinoco Flow" singer
100 "— Dinah" ('58 tune)
101 Broad bean
103 Corn portion
104 Read quickly
105 "The Three Musketeers" prop
106 BOBO—
110 HST's successor
111 "— patriae"
113 Katey of "Married ... with Children"
114 Couches
118 Above, to Arnold
119 Toil
121 "Topaz" author
123 Proboscises
125 — Major
127 Word with oil or water
130 CARI—URE
132 Coalition
133 Morgiana's master
134 Indian export
135 "Rosanna" rockers
136 Nomad pad
137 Wine word
138 Part of MPH
139 Sneak a peek
140 Apex

DOWN

1 Use the VCR
2 Japanese porcelain
3 Richard's veep
4 Strauss' "— Rosenkavalier"
5 Son of Zeus
6 Rest
7 Arena
8 — room
9 Seville shout
10 DeCarlo of "The Munsters"
11 Stately dance
12 Maintains
13 Orthodontists' org.
14 ST—WEED
15 Main drag
16 Intended
18 Singer Phoebe
21 Consumed a knish
24 Defect
29 — Jima
31 Graceland, for one
34 Lad
36 The Rolling —
37 Story
41 Sock part
42 Modern
44 — podrida
45 Blanc or Brooks
46 Fury
47 SU—IC
48 Small bay
51 — -relief
54 Olympic award
56 Actual
58 James Herriot, for one
60 Journalist Tarbell
62 Spooky Stephen
64 Sundance's sweetie
65 Color
67 California resort
69 Mandlikova of tennis
70 Stout
72 Financial abbr.
73 Give off
75 Jack of "Rio Lobo"
77 "Da — Ron Ron" ('63 hit)
78 Llama turf
81 Actress Hussey
83 Disdains
85 Family —
86 Dental appointment, e.g.
87 Bread or booze
90 Memo letters
91 Tasty tuber
94 "No —, ands, . . ."
95 Bulk
97 Orchestra members
98 "Bali —"
102 Bony
105 Swimmer Gertrude
106 Portable
107 Paradoxical
108 Predatory fish
109 Hawaiian coffee
110 Reservation
112 Michelle and Cass
115 Racing legend
116 English course?
117 Cold-war assn.
120 CSA soldier
122 How-to part
124 Word in an octagon
126 Make believe
128 Seance sound
129 Lyman or Lincoln
131 Bit of sunshine

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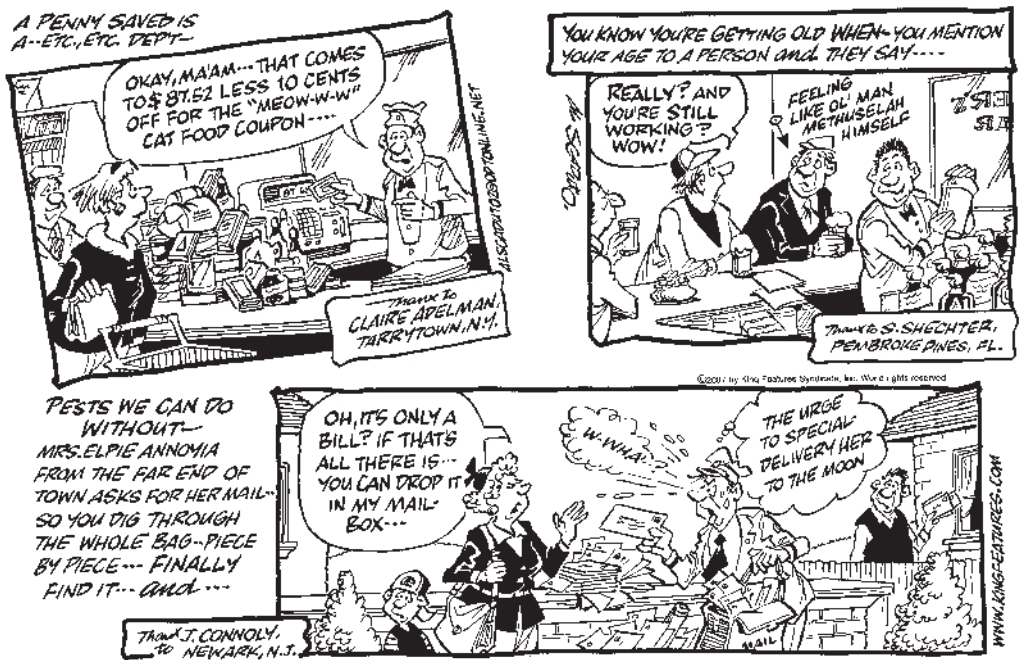
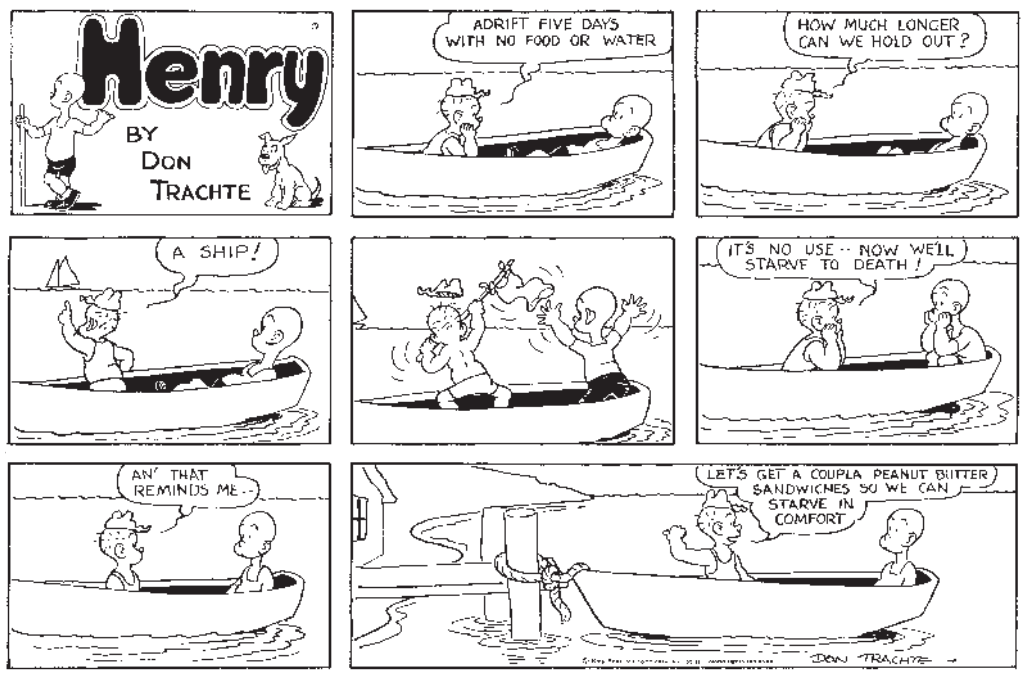
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


A PENNY SAVED IS A--ETC., ETC. DEPT--
OKAY, MA'AM--THAT COMES TO $87.52 LESS 10 CENTS OFF FOR THE "MEOW-W-W" CAT FOOD COUPON----
Thanx to CLAIRE ABELMAN, TARRYTOWN, N.Y.
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN--YOU MENTION YOUR AGE TO A PERSON and THEY SAY----
REALLY? AND YOU'RE STILL WORKING? WOW!
FEELING LIKE OL' MAN METHUSELAH HIMSELF
Thanx to S. SHECHTER, PEMBROKE PINES, FL.
PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT--
MRS. ELPIE ANNOYIA FROM THE FAR END OF TOWN ASKS FOR HER MAIL--
SO YOU DIG THROUGH THE WHOLE BAG--PIECE BY PIECE--- FINALLY FIND IT--- and ---
OH, IT'S ONLY A BILL? IF THAT'S ALL THERE IS--- YOU CAN DROP IT IN MY MAIL-BOX---
W-WHA--?
THE URGE TO SPECIAL-DELIVERY HER TO THE MOON
MAIL
Thanx J. CONNOLY, to NEWARK, N.J.


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
ADRIFT FIVE DAYS WITH NO FOOD OR WATER
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN WE HOLD OUT?
A SHIP!
IT'S NO USE -- NOW WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH!
AN' THAT REMINDS ME--
LET'S GET A COUPLA PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES SO WE CAN STARVE IN COMFORT
DON TRACHTE

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANCIENT HISTORY: Who were the opponents in the Trojan War?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Which nation's most important river is the Vistula?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president was the target of an attempted assassination in Sacramento, Calif.?
4. MUSIC: What was the full name of Bill Haley's band, which recorded the hit "Rock Around the Clock"?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the book "Mary Poppins"?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did the war crimes trials at Nuremberg, Germany, begin?
7. FORMER NAMES: Where was the ancient kingdom of Cumbria located?
8. THE ARTS: Which one of the arts was Rudolf Nureyev's claim to fame?
9. TELEVISION: What was the first name of TV detective Kojak?
10. MEASUREMENTS: How many hectares are in 1 square kilometer?

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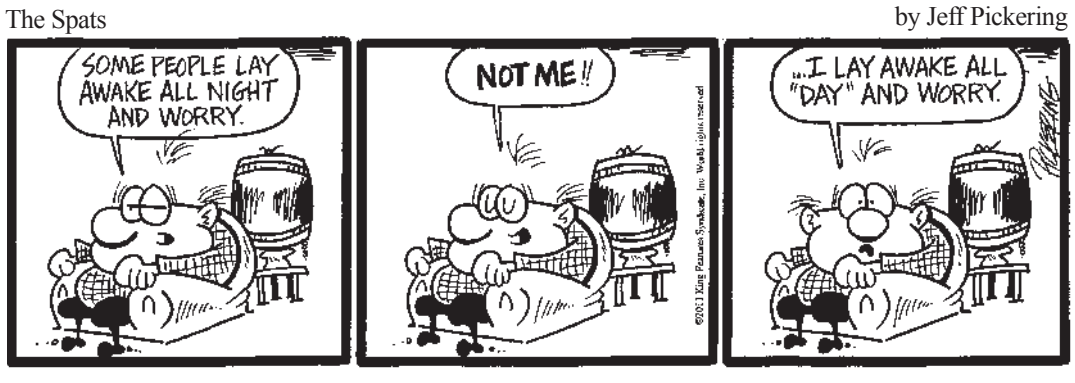
Answers

1. The Greeks (Achaeans) and Troy
2. Poland
3. Gerald Ford
4. Bill Haley & His Comets
5. Pamela Lyndon Travers
6. 1945
7. England
8. Ballet
9. Theo
10. 100

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-056

Opening Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2011
Closing Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Legal Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the In-House Legal Counsel. Perform secretarial duties utilizing legal terminology, procedures, and documents. Prepare legal papers and correspondence, such as letters, summonses, complaints, motions, and subpoenas. Prepare and organize for court hearings by organizing documents and exhibits. May also assist with legal research, including gathering information on CNMI statutes, decisions, and administrative regulations. File legal papers on line on Lexis for state court and Pacer for federal court. Post documents to website. Email, Mail, fax, or arrange for delivery of legal correspondence. Receive and place telephone calls. Organize and maintain law libraries, documents, and case files. Schedule, make appointments and keep calendars. Make photocopies or electronic scans of correspondence, documents, and other printed matter. Assist attorney in collecting information such as employment and other records, and keep all such information confidential. Draft and type office memos. Serve as a liaison between assigned department and other departments and organizations.

Location: CUC Legal Office, Saipan.
Salary: $35,163 to $49,242; Un-classified, Un-graded.
Position: One.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED or ABE with eight years of proven, professional administrative support for an attorney or judge; or, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field with three years of legal assistance experience. Knowledge of: administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, excel, managing files and records, stenography and transcription, designing forms, and other office procedures and terminology; knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar; knowledge of laws, legal codes, court procedures, precedents, government regulations, executive orders, agency rules, and the democratic political process. Skill in: Must be able to manage one's own time and the time of others, including keeping calendars to remind others of project deadlines; meeting critical deadlines for filing court documents; demonstrating attention to detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks; using computers and related software applications, including Word, Adobe, and Excel; demonstrating skill in communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to read a numerical spreadsheet.

Public Law 17-36 restricts CUC in hiring foreign national workers. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S. and specifically the CNMI without needing sponsorship by CUC for a U.S. work visa.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.
CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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Saipan Tribune

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Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT!
Saipan Tribune 235-6397

Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011
REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts
OPINION METER
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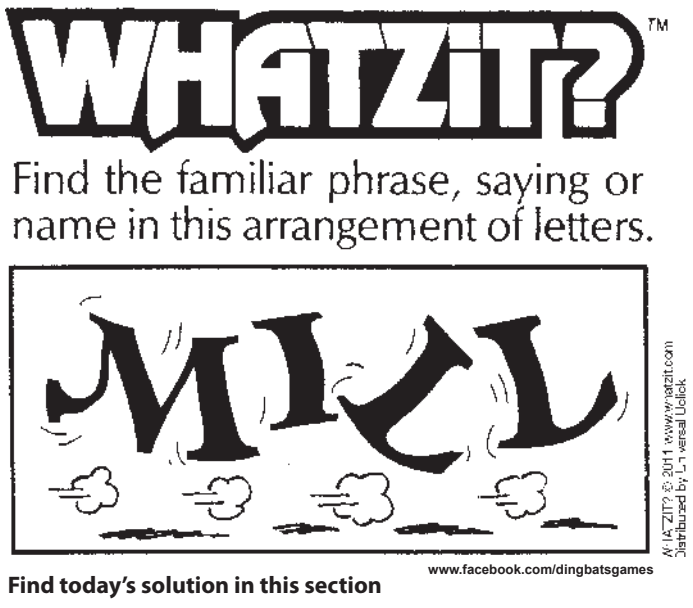

WHATZIT?
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
MCL
www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames
Find today's solution in this section

Dominant Serena joined by other Americans

Serena Williams returns a shot to Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011.

AP

NEW YORK (AP) — Neither her words nor her play indicated that Serena Williams was distracted one bit Thursday at the U.S. Open.

She would have been forgiven if they had, of course, given that her older sister Venus withdrew from the tournament 24 hours earlier and revealed a recently diagnosed immune system disease.

Focused as ever, Serena absolutely overwhelmed Michaella Krajicek of the Netherlands 6-0, 6-1 to reach the third round, showing precisely why many consider her the favorite to win a fourth championship at Flushing Meadows and 14th Grand Slam title overall.

How was it to set aside Venus' situation?

"It really wasn't that difficult, to be honest. I mean, she wants me to do the best; she wouldn't want me to suffer," Serena said. "So now, if anything, it should motivate me more."

If that's so, look out. She's lost three games in two matches this week. She's won 14 matches in a row and 29 of her last 30 on hard courts. On Thursday, she hit 10 aces, erased the only break point she faced, compiled a 25-5 edge in winners and made only 10 unforced errors in a powerful display that lasted all of 49 minutes.

"Did you guys see the match? Or was it too quick?" Krajicek asked reporters.

That was part of a pattern in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Day 4 of the year's last Grand Slam tournament: Winners Serena, Novak Djokovic (two), Roger Federer (seven), Caroline Wozniacki (two), and Francesca Schiavone (two) combined to lose a total of 14 games in five matches.

As Djokovic left the court, he said a fan told him: "Hey, listen, I paid 100 bucks. You're staying an hour and a half on the court. That's a lot to pay for a ticket. Give me something so I get back home with a happy face. Give me a racket or something."

Djokovic won the first 14 games, sending reporters scrambling to find the last "triple bagel" at the U.S. Open (for the record, Ivan Lendl won by a shutout in 1987). Berlocq finally did win a game—earning a standing ovation in the process—but Djokovic won the match 6-0, 6-0, 6-2.

Tennis fans who wanted some drama needed to watch Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion and U.S. Open runner-up, outlast No. 7-seeded Gael Monfils 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4 at a packed Louis Armstrong Stadium. At 4 hours, 48 minutes, it was the longest match of the tournament.

Before the last game, fans treated both men to a standing ovation.

"They love this kind of match," Ferrero said.

As short as the top-ranked Djokovic's 1 1/2-hour encounter was, at least he put on a show while improving to 59-2 in 2011. He repeatedly toyed with his opponent, Carlos Berlocq of Argentina, including a back-to-the-court, between-the-legs shot to win a point in the last game. Djokovic then cupped a hand to his ear, as though telling fans, "Let me hear you!"

Serena didn't pull out any trick shots, but she sure was good.

"Sometimes when you're on the court against her, you just think, 'OK, she misses a few balls.' ... But she doesn't miss a lot. It's just tough to keep the same level as her," said Krajicek, the younger sister of 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek. "I mean, nobody hits as hard as her. Nobody. Not even her sister."

Venus, who won the U.S. Open in 2000 and 2001, said in an interview Thursday with ABC's "Good Morning America" that she "absolutely" plans to return to tennis and is relieved, after years of misdiagnosis, to know exactly what's been making her feel "debilitating" fatigue.

"I know she's a fighter, and she's really strong. She's great," Serena said. "I think she's really happy now that she knows what it is, after all this time."

Now Serena figures to face a sterner test on the court Saturday than Krajicek presented, taking on No. 4 Victoria Azarenka, who beat Gisela Dulko of Argentina 6-4, 6-3.

"As people say: To win the U.S. Open, you have to beat top players. It doesn't matter when and where," said Azarenka, a semifinalist at Wimbledon. "To sit and complain, 'Oh, my God, I got her in the third round?' No. I have to go out there, compete and try to beat her."

While no one was surprised to see the 28th-seeded Serena move on—her ranking fell after she missed nearly a year with her own series of health scares—she was joined by a larger-than-lately contingent of countrywomen. Two Americans ranked outside the top 100, 18-year-old Sloane Stephens and 21-year-old Vania King, knocked off seeded players to give the host country five women in the third round for the first time since 2004, when eight made it.

"We're ready to go to the top, baby," a smiling Stephens said, clapping three times for emphasis.

The 106th-ranked Stephens, who lives in California, beat 23rd-seeded Shahar Peer of Israel 6-1, 7-6 (4). Stephens, who hit one ace at 119 mph, never won a Grand Slam match until this week, is the youngest woman left in the draw, and already has plans for her prize money.

"Now I know for sure when I get home after the season's over, I'm getting a car. That's the only thing I'm really looking forward to now," she said. "My mom wants me to get a truck. I want to get a small car. It's very confusing."

Two years ago, when she was 16 and playing in the U.S. Open junior tournament, Stephens left New York to attend the funeral of her father, 1988 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year John M. Stephens, in Louisiana, then flew back that night and played a match the next morning.

"The emotions and everything was crazy," Stephens said. "For me, today was really crazy, as well. But it's totally different."

The 103rd-ranked King, a 22-year-old who splits time between Florida and California, eliminated No. 29 Jarmila Gajdosova of Australia 6-2, 6-0.

Now things get even tougher: For a spot in the fourth round, Stephens will face 2008 French Open champion and former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia on Saturday, while King takes on current No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark.

Ivanovic advanced when her opponent, Petra Cetkovska, withdrew because of a quadriceps injury. Wozniacki lost her serve in the opening game, then rolled off 12 of the next 13 to defeat Arantxa Rus 6-2, 6-0 on Thursday night.

"I'm American, so I know I'll get some support out there," King said. "But she's No. 1 in the world, so she will, too."

The other two American women are in action Friday, with 19-year-old Christina McHale meeting No. 25 Maria Kirilenko of Russia in Arthur Ashe Stadium at night, and 21-year-old Falconi taking on No. 22 Sabine Lisicki, one of four Germans still in the field.

The highest-seeded U.S. man, No. 8 Mardy Fish, got to the third round for a third consecutive appearance in the U.S. Open by beating Tunisian qualifier Malek Jaziri 6-2, 6-2, 6-4.

"I haven't really been tested that much. I can't do anything about that," said Fish, who has dropped 13 games through two matches. "I can't do anything about who I come up against."

Not much Dudi Sela could have done Thursday, eight. His task? Facing 16-time major champion Federer. The result? Federer won 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, taking 52 of 60 points on his serve.

"It's tough to play him, especially when you're not at your best and on center court," Sela said. "On Court 25, maybe I'd have a bigger chance. I had no chance."

Neither, it turned out, did half the players in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday.

Titans, running back agree to contract extension

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Chris Johnson has agreed to a contract extension with the Tennessee Titans worth $56 million over six years, ending the three-time Pro Bowl running back's holdout.

"He'll sign tomorrow and take his physical and be ready to start practicing," Titans general manager Mike Reinfeldt said Thursday night before Tennessee played New Orleans in a final preseason game. "It was a tough negotiation, but both sides gave some and we got it done."

Johnson tweeted Wednesday night that he had dinner in Orlando with his agent Joel Segal "talking business" on the 34th day of his holdout.

Johnson has led the NFL in yards rushing the past three seasons and refused to report to the camp without a new deal. The 24th pick overall in the 2008 draft out of East Carolina, Johnson became only the sixth man in NFL history to run for 2,000 yards in 2009 when he ran for 2,006 yards.

The Titans revised his contract a year ago moving some money up in his contract, but he still was set to earn only $1.065 million for this season.

Now the running back will be under contract through 2016, and the revised deal has $30 million guaranteed, according to a person familiar with the contract. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because contract details remained confidential.

This deal will be noticed by running backs like Minnesota's Adrian Peterson, who is in the final year of his original contract. Carolina gave DeAngelo Williams $21 million guaranteed in his new deal a few weeks ago. Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles, who is going into his fourth season, tweeted, "Congrads to (at)ChrisJohnson28 on the new deal well deserved...."

The Tennessean first reported the deal.

Johnson did not immediately respond to a message left by the AP. But Titans cornerback Ryan Mouton was among those tweeting congratulations to Johnson.

Tennessee's season opener is Sept. 11 at Jacksonville. With new coach Mike Munchak, having the running back on the team for the entire season was crucial for the Titans coming off a 6-10 season.

"We have nine days," Reinfeldt said. "The main thing is for him to get comfortable with the system."

Tennessee wanted Johnson to at least have a few days of practice with new quarterback Matt Hasselbeck in a revised offense with coordinator Chris Palmer. The only other running back with any NFL carries is Javon Ringer with 59 in his career, and he has been hurt most of the preseason. Rookie Jamie Harper from Clemson started the past two preseason games for Tennessee.

Fullback Ahmard Hall said Tuesday that Johnson would have some work once he does arrive to learn the changes in Palmer's offense, especially with the different terminology.

"You're going to have to think," Hall said. "You're not going to just be able to roll in and hit the ground running as if coach (Mike) Heimerdinger were still here. Coach Palmer has put in a lot of good things, but the language is different. He's definitely going to have to think. The sooner he gets in the better."

Martin's 2-run double lifts Yanks over Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—Mariano Rivera struck out Adrian Gonzalez with the bases loaded for the final out and Russell Martin hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning that to send the New York Yankees past the Boston Red Sox 4-2 on Thursday.

New York won despite stranding 12 runners in the first six innings. The lack of clutch hitting cost A.J. Burnett a potential victory as he began September with a solid performance after compiling an 11.91 ERA in five August starts. He gave up two runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

The Red Sox led 2-1 on Dustin Pedroia's two-run homer after Alfredo Aceves (9-2) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the sixth. But he allowed three runs in the seventh and took his first loss in relief after winning 18 straight decisions out of the bullpen.

Rivera loaded the bases in the ninth but threw a called third strike past Gonzalez to earn his 36th save in 41 opportunities.

Rangers 7, Rays 2

In Arlington, Texas, C.J. Wilson was perfect for five innings before exiting in the seventh inning with a finger injury and Ian Kinsler homered twice to help AL West-leading Texas beat Tampa Bay.

Wilson (14-6) gave up two runs and two hits in six-plus innings with eight strikeouts and one walk. He got back on track after he was knocked around in his previous start, an 8-4 loss to the Los Angeles Angels.

The left-hander retired his first 15 batters before Casey Kotchman led off the sixth with an infield single that deflected off Wilson's index finger when he reached out in an attempt to field the sharp grounder.

After a double play, Kelly Shoppach ended the shutout bid with a homer, and Wilson came out in the seventh when the numbness in his finger began causing control problems.

Michael Young added a solo homer for the Rangers.

Angels 4, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Torii Hunter and Howie Kendrick homered for Los Angeles to help a wild Ervin Santana overcome seven walks in a victory over Seattle.

Hunter hit a three-run shot in the first inning and the Angels remained 3 1/2 games behind Texas in the AL West.

Santana (10-9) was not nearly as sharp he had been lately. He entered 6-1 with a 2.06 ERA and three complete games in his previous nine starts, and 4-0 with a 1.68 ERA in his last four road starts.

Yet he walked a season-high seven against Seattle, with two scoring. Santana went 6 2-3 innings while allowing four hits and three runs. He struck out five.

Athletics 7, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Gio Gonzalez pitched seven sharp innings as Oakland avoided a four-game sweep by beating Cleveland, which added another player to its overflowing disabled list.

Gonzalez (12-11) allowed four singles while improving to 5-0 with a 0.72 ERA in six career starts against Cleveland. He hasn't given up a run to the Indians in 27 2-3 consecutive innings, and handed them a loss they can't afford.

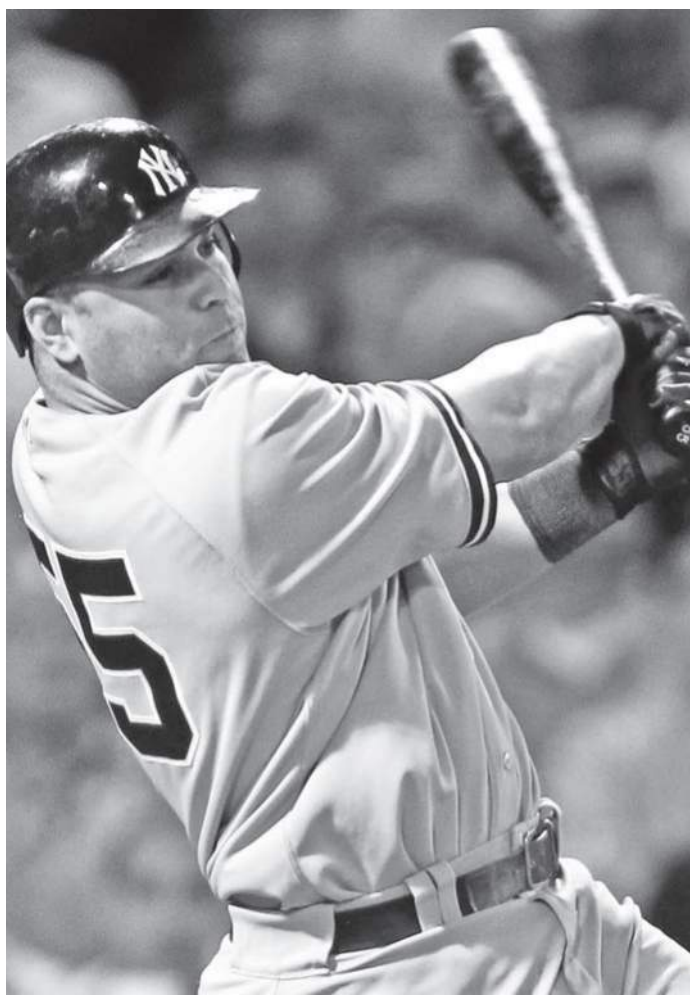
Cliff Pennington had four hits and three RBIs as the A's did just enough against Fausto Carmona (6-13) to snap a five-game losing streak.

The Indians began September trailing first-place Detroit by 5 1/2 games in the AL Central. The teams will meet in a critical three-game series starting Monday at Progressive Field.

Outfielder Choo Shin-soo was placed on the 15-day disabled list, the latest tough break for the South Korean, whose 2011 season has been marred by injuries, an arrest on drunken-driving charges and sub-par stats.

Royals 11, Tigers 8

In Detroit, Jeff Francoeur homered for his 1,000th career hit and drove in three runs as Kansas City salvaged a split of its four-game series against Detroit.



AP

New York Yankees' Russell Martin follows through on his two-run double during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011.

Johnny Giavotella hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the seventh inning against Luis Marte, who was making his major league debut. Eric Hosmer added a solo shot in the eighth. Hosmer also had two singles and two walks.

Francoeur opened the scoring with a two-run homer in the second.

Aaron Crow (4-4) allowed three runs in the sixth, his only inning of work, but was credited with the win. Phil Coke (2-9) got the loss.

Magglio Ordonez homered, doubled twice and even stole a base for the first-place Tigers.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Brett Lawrie hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Yunel Escobar had his second straight four-hit game to lead Toronto over Baltimore.

Kelly Johnson also homered for the Blue Jays, who had 26 runs and 42 hits in taking two of three at Camden Yards.

With the score 6-all, Johnson drew a walk from Willie Eyre (1-1) and Lawrie followed with his seventh home run. Lawrie, a rookie, went 3 for 5 and scored twice.

Escobar was 4 for 5 with two RBIs. The four hits matched a career high.

Vladimir Guerrero and Matt Wieters homered for the Orioles.

Cardinals 8, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Albert Pujols hit a grand slam and a solo home run to help the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Brewers and complete a three-game sweep of National League Central leading Milwaukee.

Rafael Furcal led off the game with a home run for the second game in a row. Pujols also went deep in the first, then hit a slam in the third for his NL-best 34th homer.

Matt Holiday connected for his 200th career homer in the fifth as the Cardinals won for the sixth time in seven games and moved within 7 1/2 games of the Brewers, who hadn't been swept at home since the Dodgers did it Aug. 24-26, 2010.

Prince Fielder, Jonathan Lucroy and Corey Hart went deep for Milwaukee. Fielder became the first player in Brewers history with 30 home runs in five consecutive seasons.

Phillies 6, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Ryan Howard hit his 30th homer and Vance Worley pitched into the seventh inning as Philadelphia completed an historic four-game sweep of Cincinnati.

Michael Martinez added a two-run homer as the Phillies (87-46) moved 41 games over .500 for the first time since Aug. 26, 1976, when they improved to 83-42 with a win at Cincinnati. It was Philadelphia's first four-game sweep at Cincinnati since May 13-16, 1916.

Howard hit a solo shot to left-center on a 3-1 pitch from Mike Leake (11-9) in the sixth, giving Philadelphia a 4-1 lead and extending his streak of consecutive seasons with at least 30 homers and 100 RBIs to six.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Dana Eveland pitched eight crisp innings as Los Angeles survived a shaky ninth inning to get to beat Pittsburgh.

Eveland (1-0) gave up one run and six hits in his first major league game since he pitched 2 2-3 innings for Pittsburgh at Texas on June 23, 2010. The journeyman left-hander was promoted from Triple-A Albuquerque earlier Thursday.

Eveland struck out three, walked none and retired 11 in a row after giving up consecutive singles to start the second inning.

Dee Gordon hit a two-run double and Aaron Miles had a two-run single for Los Angeles, which has won four straight and nine of 10. Gordon was activated from the disabled list before the game.

Alex Presley hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning for the Pirates, who has lost five straight and seven of eight.

Braves 5, Nationals 2

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson gave Atlanta's ailing rotation a lift and Brian McCann and Chipper Jones hit home runs in a win over Washington.

The Braves are 8 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the NL wild-card race but face growing concerns about the health of their rotation.

Right-hander Jair Jurrjens said Thursday an MRI on his sore right knee showed a bone bruise and he plans to see a specialist. Jurrjens could join right-hander Tommy Hanson (sore right shoulder) on the disabled list.

Hudson (14-8) allowed one run and five hits in six innings while passing Jurrjens for the team lead in wins. The right-hander improved to 5-1 with a 2.03 ERA in his last seven starts.

Mets 7, Marlins 5

In New York, Miguel Batista pitched six serviceable innings to earn his 100th win, and David Wright hit a two-run single in a four-run third as New York downed Florida.

Making his first start since April 22 for St. Louis, the 40-year-old Batista scattered six hits while becoming the third active pitcher to play for at least 10 teams. Filling in for injured Jonathon Niese, Batista (4-2) induced two double-play grounders in helping New York take four of five in the series against its NL East rival.

Emilio Bonifacio had three hits and three RBIs for Florida, including a two-run single during a three-run ninth. But the Marlins committed three errors in losing for the 20th time in 25 games.

Usain Bolt coasts into 200 semifinals at Worlds

DAEGU, South Korea (AP)—Usain Bolt easily qualified for the 200-meter semifinals in the world championships Friday, five days after he was disqualified from the 100 final for a false start.

Bolt had the second-slowest start of 53 sprinters in the 200 heats, yet easily was the fastest at the line, finishing in 20.30 seconds. He glanced to his left from the outside lane several times before turning off the power and coasting across the line.

When asked how he felt, Bolt simply gave a thumbs up.

It was a thumbs down for double-amputee runner Oscar Pistorius after he was left off South Africa's 1,600 relay team for the final after running the leadoff leg that got his team into the championship Friday.

"Haven't Been included in the Final for the SA Mens 4x400m. Pretty Guttered," Pistorius wrote in a Twitter message.

If anyone thought Bolt would be left feeling low by his debacle in the 100, they got immediate proof of the opposite once the Jamaican entered Daegu Stadium and heard the crowd roar.

Because of a malfunction to the starting gun, the heats were delayed by eight minutes as track officials tried to fix the problem. Bolt then did his famed "Lightning Bolt" move, getting the highest-pitched scream from the fans all morning. He fake-slicked his hair, did Kung Fu moves, danced like a boxer—anything to show he had no hang-ups about the biggest setback of his career.

He was careful enough, though, not to risk another false start, and reacted only 0.314 after the gun. Once he got going, there was no stopping him.

Walter Dix of the United States was second-fastest in 20.42 seconds and is considered his most credible challenger for the final.

"We'll see," Dix said when asked if he could get past the Olympic champion and world-record holder. "I'll show you."

Pistorius had nothing left to show at the championships after the South African team decided to go with L.J. van Zyl, who won bronze in the 400-meter hurdles, in the relay.

"It was a big surprise to us. It is a disappointment, needless to say, for Oscar," his manager, Peet van Zyl, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "He ran a good leg."

After making a historic breakthrough for Paralympic athletes by reaching the semifinals of the 400 early this week, the "Blade Runner" ran a strong opening leg on the tough inside lane Thursday to help South Africa to a third-place finish in its heat and a South African record.

"Gods blessed me! Semi-finals in the 400m and a National Record in the 4x400m semi!Thank u all!x," Pistorius wrote on Twitter.

In the women's 1,600 relay, the United States easily qualified for the final even with its two best runners, Allyson Felix and Sanya Richards-Ross, sitting out the heat. Russia was even more impressive with a world-leading 3:20.94. Jamaica and Britain also made it through easily.

The finals in a heavy program late Friday also included the men's shot put and long jump, and the women's javelin, 5,000 and 200.

The 200 will likely be a highly charged faceoff between three-time defending champion Felix, 100 champion Carmelita Jeter and two-time Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown.

In the 5,000, Vivian Cheruiyot of Kenya was looking for a long-distance double after winning the 10,000 on the first day of the championships.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	83	53	.610	–
New York	82	53	.607	1/2
Tampa Bay	74	62	.544	9
Toronto	69	68	.504	14 1/2
Baltimore	54	81	.400	28 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	75	62	.547	–
Chicago	68	66	.507	5 1/2
Cleveland	68	66	.507	5 1/2
Minnesota	57	79	.419	17 1/2
Kansas City	57	81	.413	18 1/2

West Division

Texas	78	60	.565	–
Los Angeles	74	63	.540	3 1/2
Oakland	61	76	.445	16 1/2
Seattle	58	78	.426	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	87	46	.654	–
Atlanta	81	55	.596	7 1/2
New York	66	69	.489	22
Washington	63	72	.467	25
Florida	60	76	.441	28 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	81	57	.587	–
St. Louis	73	64	.533	7 1/2
Cincinnati	67	70	.489	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	62	75	.453	18 1/2
Chicago	59	78	.431	21 1/2
Houston	47	90	.343	33 1/2

West Division

Arizona	78	59	.569	–
San Francisco	72	65	.526	6
Los Angeles	66	70	.485	11 1/2
Colorado	64	73	.467	14
San Diego	60	77	.438	18

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 6, Cincinnati 4
L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 4
St. Louis 8, Milwaukee 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Florida 5
Atlanta 5, Washington 2
Oakland 7, Cleveland 0
Toronto 8, Baltimore 6
Kansas City 11, Detroit 8
N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 2
Texas 7, Tampa Bay 2
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

2011 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL TALLY

Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Caledonia	48	37	15	100
Tahiti	22	10	8	40
PNG	18	7	7	32
Fiji Islands	12	23	19	54
Tonga	2	2	4	8
Vanuatu	0	4	11	15
Samoa	0	4	6	10
Guam	0	3	1	4
Solomon Islands	0	0	4	4
Wallis & Futuna	0	0	3	3
Cook Islands	0	0	2	2
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0
Palau	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Nauru	0	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	0	0	0	0
CNMI	0	0	0	0
FSM	0	0	0	0
American Samoa	0	0	0	0

UFO STANDINGS

Open

Namfrel/Proa	4	0
UPAA/Hoopaholics	4	1
Bayani/Mobil	3	1
Visminda/Satbahi	3	1
Cabalen/Noni	2	1
Ali'i Konflikt	2	3
Cavite/Andok's	1	4
NMBA/Mixed Blood	1	4
MDX/Blue Haus	0	5

Masters

Cabalen/Wings Travel3	0	
MDX/Armatech	2	0
VisMinda/Piahi	2	1
MAFEA/RNV	0	3
SAFSWO/Ebisuya	0	3

Youth

MDX/Armatech	2	1
AFP/Jets	2	1
SIP/AON	1	0
Filcag/Rollers	0	1
Samahang Laguna	0	2

DEE

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For more information, contact 788-9720.

4 more teams ousted in Blue Haus playoffs

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MBI, Joeten Superstore, Jacem Printing, and NVM are still alive in the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League playoffs after Monday's and Wednesday's matchups at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MBI eliminated Wings Travel, 64-51, in Wednesday's curtain raiser, before Joeten Superstrore took the floor and knocked out Bud's Brothers, 71-68, with a big second half rally.

Then back on Monday, Jacem Printing rallied over Mawati, 81-76, after a slow start, while NVM ran over I-Fashion, 67-48, in the late night pairing.

In Wednesday's opener, MBI worked out an early 10-7 lead after the tip thanks largely to seven points from Noel David.

David added five more points in the second period as his team maintained a 21-17 edge at halftime.

After a low scoring half to start the game, MBI turned it up a notch in the third quarter and jumped ahead, 46-31.

David led the charge with 10 markers to go with three treys from his teammates in the period.

Wings Travel's Ed Yalung managed 11 points in the clutch, but his team could not bridge the gap in the final period. MBI's Leo Galarse scored seven points to help seal the deal.

David led all scorers with 24 points, while Wings Travel's Nate Mateo scrambled for a team-high 18 on the short end.

In Wednesday's second match, Joeten managed a 14-11 edge in the opening period with six different players chipping in on the action.

Bud's Brothers battled back and contained Joeten to just 10 points in the second quarter and stole the lead, 31-24, at the break. Bud's Brothers's Joel Saplan and Walter Brillo delivered six points apiece in the surge.

Jacem Printing's Brandon Aulerio splits the defense of Mawati in their Blue Haus caging game last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Joeten adjusted after halftime and reassumed control, 54-50, heading into the final canto.

Christian De Vero ignited the rally with seven markers early in the third quarter.

It remained anyone's game all the way to the end, but Joeten managed to sink four pressure-packed free throws late in the game to secure the win.

Bud's Brothers' Brillo and R.J. Castro outscored the Joeten duo of DeVero and Amor Casabuena, 37-29. However, the latter received much more bench support in the match.

In Monday's opener, Mawati jumped out to an early 22-10 lead as Nikko Salem and Don Dela Cruz scored six points apiece in the first quarter.

Jacem's Josh Kiyoshi then pulled a string of 10 points at the start of the second period to help trim his team's deficit to eight, 29-37, at the pause.

Depsite a couple of 3-pointers by Mawati, Jacem buckled down on defense in the period.

Jacem carried the momentum over into the second half and took the lead, 54-49, heading into the payoff period. Jacem's shooters buried four treys in the third quarter comeback. Notably, Mawati's Dela Cruz rolled his ankle in the period, causing a significant void in his team's game plan.

Jacem hit two more 3-balls early in the fourth quarter and held on strong for the win. Kiyoshi added 12 points in the clutch with eight more in support from Brandon Aulerio.

Kiyoshi led all scorers with 30 points, while Mawati's Salem turned in 24 in the loss.

In Monday's late tiff, NVM built a 21-10 lead in the opening 10 minutes and never looked back. Jesse Mina paced NVM with nine points in the first quarter.

NVM again stuffed I-Fashion to just 10 markers in the second quarter as it maintained a comfortable, 37-20, margin at the half.

NVM's defense continued to dominate, containing I-Fashion to just nine points in the third period, while NVM's bench switched over to cruise control.

The game was out of reach by the start of the final quarter. Mina finished with a game-high 14 points, while I-Fashion's lone double-digit scorer, Art Salazar, managed 10.

WEDNESDAY

First Game

MBI 64 – David 24, Galarse 17, Trajano 6, Achas 4, Cordero 3, Angeles 3, Dela Rama 3, Viola 2, Sese 2.

Wings Travel 51 – Mateo 18, Yalung 15, M. Cruz 12, C. Cruz 3, Pantola 2, Macoto 1.

Scoring by quarters: 10-7, 21-17, 46-31, 64-51.

Second Game

Joeten Superstore 71 – DeVero 15, Casabuena 14, Sacramento 12, Umali 10, Cruz 8, Camacho 6, Lagada 2, Sablan 2, Tangkoy 2.

Bud's Brothers 68 – Brillo 19, Castro 18, Saplan 16, Javier 8, Towon 6.

Scoring by quarters: 14-11, 24-31, 54-50, 71-68.

MONDAY

First Game

Jacem Printing 81 – Kiyoshhi 30, Aulerio 24, L DLGuerrero 7, Olivos 7, Litulumar 6, Manalo 5, Guinto 2.

Mawati 76 – Salem 24, Dela Cruz 22, Renia 9, Avila 7, Reyes 7, Ryano 3, Dalusong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-22, 29-37, 54-49, 81-76.

Second Game

NVM 67 – Je. Mina 14, Jr. Mina 13, Metran 11, Catilla 7, Montanoi 7, Johannes 4, Ortiz 3, Tengco 2, Rabauliman 2, Alejandro 1, Montes 1.

I-Fashion 48 – Salazar 10, Achas 8, Odicta 8, Gatdula 6, Fernando 5, Villanueva 4, Kapileo 3, Herrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 37-20, 52-29, 67-48.

Two in a row for Hocog

Victor Hocog ruled the last two competitions in the VFW Post 3457 9-Ball Tournament.

On Aug. 20, Hocog came out of the loser's bracket to beat Jerry Soriano in the finals. Hocog drew a bye in the first round and then topped Eugene Borja in the second to advance to the quarterfinals. In the Round of 8, Hocog bowed to Soriano, who then thumped Chester Cuento to gain the first finals berth.

To take the second and last finals seat, Hocog had to survive two playoff matches. He first downed Mike Pangelinan and then defeated Cuento to arrange a rematch against Soriano. Hocog went on to avenge his loss to Soriano in the earlier round after winning the finals.

Then on Aug. 27, Hocog cruised to back-to-back victories after outclassing Richard Santos. In his second victory in the weekly competition, Hocog was unbeaten. He first triumphed over Randy Sablan and then beat Jimmy Wang to advance to the next round. He met Soriano anew in the semifinals and this time won to notch the first finals ticket.

Santos challenged Hocog in the finals after winning in the loser's bracket semis against Borja. ***(PR)***

CNMI

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cific Mini Games. The Commonwealth is bidding for the Mini Games and will be up against Vanuatu and Nauru.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial arrived in New Caledonia last Thursday and will deliver the opening remarks in the CNMI's bid presentation tomorrow.

Meanwhile, New Caledonia continued to haul medals, bringing their total to 87 as of 7pm last night. The host has a 48-37-14 gold-silver-bronze tally, pulling away from Tahiti (20-10-8).

Papua New Guinea bumped off Fiji from third place, as the former has an 18-7-7 tally against the latter's 12-21-18. Tonga also moved up from eight to fifth place with its 2-2-4 medal haul.

NAMFREL

From Page 28

gunned MDX to pad Proa's lead to 19 at halftime, 45-26. Joshua Sablan came off the bench with two triples, while Kovin Ogumoro and Keoni Chariton had one trey each.

Proa's starting five returned in the second half and Iguel began the third period with five straight points and scored six more for a big 66-40 advantage.

MDX found itself in a much deeper hole in the third quarter, as it scored only 14 points, just three markers more than Iguel's total production in that period alone. Again, only Lauron hit more than two field goals for MDX in the third canto.

Proa's first five sat out in the entire fourth quarter, leaving its bench players the opportunity to finish the one-sided game.

Iguel still top-scored for Proa with 20 despite missing the fourth-quarter action while Lizama chipped in 13. Five other Proa players scored at least five points each.

Lauron paced MDX with 20 markers, while Dexter Tenorio contributed 15, but most of them came when the game was already decided. MDX has yet to win after five matches, while Proa is the lone unbeaten team in the eight-squad field.

Proa 80 – Iguel 20, Lizama 13, Sablan 9, Chariton 9, Barcinas 8, Valdez 6, Ogumoro 5, Mendiola 2, Johnson 2.

MDX 61 – Lauron 20, Tenorio 15, Palacios 8, Babauta 8, Z. Diaz 4, Johanes 4, Lisua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 45-26, 66-40, 80-61.

VIZMINDA

From Page 28

in VisMinda's fourth-quarter breakaway, combining for 19 points in that period.

SAFSWO/Ebisuya was limited to three field goals in the fourth with only Mike Surima making more than two points for the team in the final frame, three of them were from the foul line.

Before its fourth-quarter collapse, SAFSWO/Ebisuya played better than VisMinda in the first period, taking a 17-16 advantage. Surima and Dionie Malicdem joined forces in the opening canto for SAFSWO/Ebisuya, nailing seven and six markers, respectively.

Tables turned after the second quarter, but VisMinda went up only by a hair, 38-37. VisMinda drew contribution from seven different players in the second canto to take a slight advantage at halftime.

The game remained close in the third frame, as Malicden added six more points in that quarter and matched Abedes' output.

However, in the fourth period, VisMinda's much deeper bench showed up to help out the starters in taking full control of the game. In contrast, Surima failed to draw support from his teammates with Joel Buniag and Matt Buenabajo the only two other players scoring for SAFSWO/Ebisuya in the fourth with two points each.

Abedes fired 19 markers in VisMinda's second win, while Renguul and Manipon added 16 and 14, respectively.

VisMinda/PIAHI 85 – Abedes 19, Renguul 16, Manipon 14, Alejandro 9, Gabaldon 6, Ruluked 6, Lizama 4, Anasan 4, Suda 3.

SAFSWO/Ebisuya 63 – Surima 15, Malicdem 14, Pablo 6, Echavez 5, Buniag 4, Conti 3, Mateo 2, Bucalig 2, Buenabajo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 38-37, 55-53, 85-63.

Martin's 2-run double lifts Yanks over Red Sox

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Sports

Dominant Serena joined by other Americans

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CNMI sluggers fall to Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI dropped another close game, losing to archrival Guam, 5-6, in the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games yesterday at the Baseball Mont-Dore in New Caledonia.

No other details of the match were made available at the 2011 Pacific Games website.

The win over the CNMI gave Guam an unbeaten record in three games and the lead in the six-team field. The victory also allowed Guam to avenge its twin losses to the CNMI in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

The Commonwealth sluggers fell to a 1-2 slate for a share of fourth to fifth place with Fiji and must regroup and sweep their two remaining games to salvage a playoff seat.

Only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin play will make it to the next round. Guam with its 3-0 card is already assured of a playoff ticket. New Caledonia and Palau also have a strong chance of making it to the next round with their similar 2-1 cards. The host met Palau yesterday, but results of the match were unavailable at press time. Fiji has a 1-2 record after losing to Palau last Thursday, 13-1, while American Samoa owns a dismal 0-3 card after bowing to New Caledonia, 2-9.

The CNMI will duel American Samoa today and will play Fiji in the last day of the round-robin elimination on Monday.

The Top 2 placers after the elimination round will collide for the first finals ticket. The No. 3 and 4 finishers will square off in a playoff game for the right to meet the loser of the No. 1 vs. No. 2 tiff in the second semis match.

Only the scores in the baseball game between the CNMI and Guam were available at the website, while the results of the third round of the golf competitions have yet to be posted as of press time.

The CNMI has only Jeff Taylor, Tony Satur, and Adam Hardwicke participating in the golf event after Jess Wabol's withdrawal. Beach volleyball's Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson and athletics' Rachel Abrams, Trevor Ogumoro, and Douglas Dillay will have their debuts in the 2011 Pacific Games on Monday.

The Games will take a break tomorrow to give way to the Pacific Games Council's general assembly and selection for the hosting rights of the 2017 Pa-

See CNMI on Page 27

The CNMI's Franco Flores is seen here delivering a pitch against Guam in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. Flores and company bowed to Guam in yesterday's match in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dee Clayton Classic tonight

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 2011 Marianas Islands Bodybuilding Championships—or the Dee Clayton Classic—will be held tonight at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Categories include women's body figure short class, male physique division, men's bodybuilding category, a women's bikini competition, and more.

Special guest poser G. Gray will also be featured and is expected to showcase his competition routine.

Both local and off-island bodybuilders are expected to join the competition.

Medals, trophies, and other prizes will be awarded to the winners. Doors open at 5pm and the show begins at 6:30pm with pre-judging starting at 8am.

Clayton, the event organizer and promoter, has been working on offering this event for the past two years.

The event is sponsored

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Namfrel/Proa still undefeated

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Namfrel/Proa's Keone Chariton goes for a left-handed layup against MDX/Blue Haus' Zack Diaz during their game in the UFO Bud Cup on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Namfrel/Marianas Health Services Proa kept its unbeaten record, following an 80-61 rout of MDX/Blue Haus in the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League Bud Cup 2011 on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory was the fourth in as many games for Proa and it came as early in the first quarter when coach Rufino Aguon's wards led by double digits and stretched the advantage to as much as 26 in the third period.

Jack Lizama gave Proa a strong start, scoring the team's first six points. He went to finish the opening canto with 12 points, while Pete Iguel had nine, as Proa took a 13-point lead, 23-10.

MDX was held to four field goals in the first period with Alex Lauron making three of them.

In the second quarter, Aguon turned to his bench and even his second and third stringers out-

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Back-to-back for VisMinda

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
VisMinda/PIAHI's Henry Manipon, seen here pulling up for a shot against MAFEA's Ed Cosino, scored 14 points in their 85-63 win over SAFSWO/Ebisuya in the masters division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda/PIAHI started a streak as it notched its second straight win, following an 85-63 victory over SAFSWO/Ebisuya in the UFO Inter-Organization Masters Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011 on Thursday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

With its two wins and one loss, VisMinda keeps pace with co-leaders Cabalen/Wings Travel and MDX/Armatech, which hold similar 2-0 slates.

SAFSWO/Ebisuya absorbed its third straight defeat, as it ran out of steam in the fourth quarter after slugging it out with VisMinda in the first three quarters. SAFSWO/Ebisuya was behind by only a deuce after the third quarter, 53-55, but scored only 10 points in the payoff period against VisMinda's 30 to drop another match.

Jun Abedes, Junior Renguul, and Henry Manipon teamed up

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